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MUDA 'SCAM'

JD(S) pulls support for BJP's padayatra

KARNATAKA » PAGE 6

SHARP DECLINE

Core sector growth slips to 20-month low of 4%

BUSINESS » PAGE 15

MINERAL TAX JUDGMENT

Is verdict prospective? SC reserves order

NEWS » PAGE 12

SILENT EPIDEMIC

Early detection of lung cancer can save lives

India lacks a systematic screening programme

OPINION » PAGE 11

SAD DEMISE

Gaekwad, 71, loses battle with cancer

SPORT » PAGE 18

NEARBY

DKS appeals to PM for funds

BENGALURU
Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submitted a proposal seeking more funds for irrigation projects and for the development of Bengaluru.
» PAGE 6

FIR against Puneeth Kerehalli, Pratap Simha

BENGALURU
As drama continued over allegations of dog meat being transported by train, an FIR was registered against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli and former MP Pratap Simha for unlawful assembly and preventing police personnel from discharging their duties. » PAGE 2

Wayanad death toll crosses 200; slush, debris slow down search

As many as 191 persons reported missing; harsh terrain comes in the way of rescue efforts by personnel of various forces; 1,592 persons rescued from the ravaged sites in two days and moved to various hospitals; 99 persons are under treatment

The Hindu Bureau
KALPETTA/
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The death toll in the landslides that devastated the Chooralmala and Mundakkai areas near Meppadi in Wayanad district of Kerala crossed 200 as the search and rescue operations gained momentum on Wednesday, Revenue Department officials said.

Personnel of the Army, Defence Security Corps, National Disaster Response Force, Forest Department and Fire and Rescue Service picked through the debris strewn across the affected areas with the help of volunteers and rescue equipment, including earthmovers. Searing visuals of bodies being pulled out of the rubble, people desperately searching for their loved ones and terrified survivors recounting their ordeal filled television screens and social media platforms.

A total of 174 bodies and 61 body parts were retrieved by Wednesday evening; 191 persons were missing. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said 1,592 persons were rescued from the ravaged sites in two days and moved to various hospitals. Ninety-nine persons were undergoing treatment, the rest were shifted to relief camps.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
UNNATURAL DISASTER
» PAGE 10

Tough call: A body being transported across a stream using a rope and a pulley by the rescue personnel at the landslide-hit Chooralmala on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

Row erupts over disaster warning

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took issue with Home Minister Amit Shah for saying Kerala did not do enough despite Centre's warning. He said the Centre had dispatched the NDRF teams at Kerala's behest, not on its own volition. » PAGE 9

Wayanad high on landslide atlas

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Wayanad was among many places in Kerala that featured high on a national database by ISRO in 2023 based on exposure to landslides in terms of "key socio-economic parameters". » PAGE 9

Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas killed in Iran

Associated Press
BEIRUT

Ismail Haniyeh

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh was killed in a predawn air strike in the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Wednesday, Iran and the militant group said, blaming Israel for a shock assassination that risks escalating the conflict even as the U.S. and other nations were scrambling to prevent an all-out regional war. Iran's supreme leader vowed revenge against Israel. There was no immediate comment from Israel, which has pledged to kill Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders over the October 7 attack on southern Israel.

The strike came just after Haniyeh had attended the inauguration of Iran's new President in Tehran. "We consider his revenge as our duty," Iranian supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a statement on his official website. He said Israel had "prepared a harsh punishment for itself" by killing "a dear guest in our home".

Haniyeh's killing could also prompt Hamas to pull out of ceasefire negotiations and hostage release deal in the war in Gaza, which U.S. mediators had said were making progress.

On Tuesday, Israel carried out a rare strike in the Lebanese capital that it said killed a top Hezbollah commander allegedly behind the rocket strike.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 16

Row over expunging MP's remark; privilege notice against PM for video

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha was adjourned on Wednesday amid an uproar by Opposition MPs over BJP MP Anurag Thakur's remarks on caste made in the House during the debate on the Union Budget on Tuesday. Despite assurances, his remarks were not expunged from the parliamentary record.

This became clear after Congress MP and former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi submitted a breach-of-privilege notice to the Lok Sabha Speaker against Prime Minister Narendra Modi for posting a link to Mr. Thakur's speech on his X account. The Congress said the linked video included the "expunged" portions of the speech.

Anurag Thakur

While Jagdambika Pal, who was in the Chair at the time the remarks were made, had said the remarks would be expunged, later releases by the Lok Sabha did not do so. The debates on the Lok Sabha's website, however, show the assurance of expunging was present in the text of the proceedings.

Combative mood

The Opposition's protests began as the Lok Sabha convened on Wednesday, with Congress MPs storming into the Well of the House, raising slogans like "shame, shame" against Mr. Thakur and the rest of the ruling party MPs.

The Treasury benches were also in a combative mood, with Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju noting that the Opposition, including Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, "keep saying caste, caste, caste, but here they raise questions on asking about caste". He accused the Congress of acting to weaken the country, by questioning the armed forces, and "incitement to violence".

In his speech on Tuesday, Mr. Thakur said, without specifically naming anyone, that those who had no idea of their own caste were asking for a caste census. Mr. Gandhi had responded to the remarks by stating that though he had been insulted, he would press ahead with his claims for a caste census across the country. The spillover of this controversy into the next day saw protests erupting within the House, during which Speaker Om Birla adjourned the proceedings till noon.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Governor gives notice to CM on MUDA 'scam'; Siddaramaiah calls meet with Ministers today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a major political development, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot is learnt to have issued a "show-cause notice" to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking more explanation from him on the alleged irregularities in allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife. Incidentally the Governor was in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Mr. Siddaramaiah has convened a breakfast meeting with his ministerial colleagues at his residence on Thursday, ahead of a Cabinet meeting, to discuss the notice issued by the Governor, sources told *The Hindu*.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot called on Union Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The MUDA had allotted 14 sites to Mr. Siddaramaiah's wife, Parvathi, in lieu of her land "illegally" acquired by it.

A few days ago, Mr. Siddaramaiah had called on the Governor at Raj Bhavan and reportedly discussed the MUDA issue. Raj Bhavan also wrote to the Chief Secretary, seeking details about the alleged irregularities at the authority. During the breakfast meeting, the Chief Minister is expected to discuss a strategy to counter the Governor's possible move on sanctioning prosecution against him. A senior Minister confirmed that the Cabinet would discuss the issue and "take a firm stand".

The State government has set up a one-man commission of inquiry under retired High Court Judge P.N. Desai to probe the alleged MUDA scam. The BJP and JD(S) had petitioned the Governor.

Ministers G. Parameshwara, Priyank Kharge, and Krishna Byre Gowda and Congress MLA K.M. Shivalinge Gowda on Wednesday took exception to the Governor's intentions to seek details on the alleged irregularities. In north Karnataka, Dr. Parameshwara said the Governor had to discharge his duties within the limits of the Constitution. "The Governor's actions would give rise to doubts if he did not discharge duties as per the Constitution," he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

UPSC cancels Puja's candidature, debars her from future exams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) said on Wednesday that it had cancelled the candidature of Indian Administrative Service (IAS) probationer Puja Khedkar and permanently debarred her from all future examinations and selections of the commission.

She was found "guilty of acting in contravention of the provisions of the Civil Services Examination-2022 Rules", it said. Regarding the submission of false certificates by candidates, the UPSC said that it "neither has the mandate nor the wherewithal to check the veracity of thousands of certificates submitted by the candidates every year".

Puja Khedkar

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Police recover ₹1.4 crore of the ₹1.53 crore robbed from software engineer couple

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

In a rare case, the east division cybercrime police cracked an online investment racket and managed to recover ₹1.4 crore out of the total ₹1.53 crore which had been robbed from a software engineer couple at Banaswadi in March this year.

This is probably one of the most successful recoveries made by the city cybercrime police so far and it was made possible with persistent follow-up on the trail of money and with banks.

The accused, who were operating from the U.K. with hundreds of mule accounts taken on rent from labourers of north India, lured 44-year-old Neha (name changed) and 45-year-old Lokesh (name changed) through social media with the promise of quick and high return for investment and made Neha to transfer a total of ₹1.53 crore. They were even given access to a website to check the status and growth of their investment, the police said.

This is probably one of the most successful recoveries made by the Bengaluru cybercrime police so far.

The couple were happy to find that their investment had grown and wanted to withdraw some amount after a few months, but they were denied access to the website and they were later blocked.

Following a complaint, a team of police, led by inspector Umesh Kumar, began to track down the money trail. There were around 50 mule accounts where the money was transferred, he said and added that the team had to coordinate with the banks concerned to block over 50 accounts to recover the money.

"For every cybercrime case, the investigating team follows three rules: trailing the money transaction and blocking the accounts, getting information from the complainant on time, and getting the complaint registered within the golden hour. In addition to this, coordination with bank officials and maintaining a rapport is a must to get the work done fast," a police officer said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

'48 died in rain-related incidents in State'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Revenue Krishna Byre Gowda on Wednesday said 48 people had lost their lives so far in Karnataka in rain-related incidents, including lightning strikes, landslides, floods, and drowning. Agricultural and horticultural crops on 44,000 hectares were estimated to have been damaged in the rains this year, he added.

Speaking to reporters during his visit to rain-affected areas in Kodagu, the Minister said eight persons died in lightning strikes while six lost their lives in tree-fall incidents. In incidents of house collapse, 14 lost their lives and 12 drowned when they had gone for a swim and fishing in overflowing rivers.

Eight persons died in Sirur landslip in Uttara Kannada. All put together, the total deaths so far this year because of heavy rains, floods and landslides, were 48, he said. The Minister said the State had received 28 per cent excess rains and Kodagu alone got 24 per cent surplus rains.

However, some districts like Kolar, Chickballapur, Vijayapura, Raichur, and Bagalkot have reported deficit rain. There was less rain in June in Kodagu but excess rainfall in July. Governments have to frame policies according to the impact of climate change, he felt.

Gill's progression — from missing the T20 WC to a future captain

At 24, the world is his oyster, the batter has all the tools to excel on the international stage, the season ahead would be crucial for him as he looks to realise his full potential who is touted to be India's next leader

PTI

R. Kaushik
COLOMBO

Shubman Gill played himself out of India's 15 for the T20 World Cup with a series of underwhelming performances for the country in the months leading up to the selection of the squad. In eight innings between August 2023 and this January, the right-handed opener mustered a meagre 133 runs at an unedifying average of 16.63, and even that largely because of a sparkling 77 against West Indies in Lauderhill in August.

Once it was decided that Virat Kohli would partner Rohit Sharma at the top of the batting tree in the Americas, Gill's best bet was to sneak in as reserve opener, ahead of Yashasvi Jasiwal. But the left-hander made his inclusion a no-brainer with a century against Nepal in the Asian Games in October, followed by fifty-plus scores against Australia, South Africa and Afghanistan.

Setting the tempo

Now, following the retirements from Twenty20 Internationals of Rohit and Kohli, Gill and Jaiswal have come together to open the batting and set the tempo for the muscular middle order to build on. The right-handed Gill and Jaiswal complement rather than compete with each other, the former a master at silken stroke-play and the latter a robust ball-smasher who loves sending the little sphere deep into the stands.

With Ravindra Jadeja following Rohit and Kohli into T20I sunset, Gill is one of the few all-format players left in the Indian set-up. His pre-eminence within the ranks has been recognised by the conferring of the vice-captaincy in both white-ball formats; Gill was deputy to Suryakumar Yadav in the just-concluded T20I series against Sri Lanka, a role he will reprise when Rohit retakes charge during the three-match One-Day International beginning in Colombo on Friday. Clearly, the 24-year-old is being groomed for a leadership role going forward.

Gill played under Prithvi Shaw at the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in early 2018, but their careers have taken vastly different paths in the last six and a half years. Shaw was the first to break into the senior side, announcing his arrival with a century on Test debut against West Indies in Rajkot in October 2018. But a lack of discipline, fitness concerns and more than one injury have left the former Under-19 skipper at a crossroads. Shaw hasn't played for India for more than three years, his international appearances restricted to 12 games. In the five and a half years since his first India cap, in January 2019, Gill has played 90 matches, has multiple centuries in Tests and ODIs (including a monumental 208 against New Zealand) and boasts a three-figure knock in T20Is too.

It's safe to say that in the battle of the two right-handers, Gill has stolen a clear march. That hasn't come about by accident. Where Shaw has a penchant for the good life, Gill is disciplined and tunnel-visioned, his commitment to fitness and to constantly keep improving catching the eye of successive coaches as well as chairmen of selection panels.

Gill, of course, has a long way to go, but the fact that he is already being looked at as a potential leader in the not-too-distant future is a vote of confidence he will cherish. Soft-spoken and well liked within the changing room, his captaincy skills are still a work in progress. He is, though, fortunate to be able to witness first-hand how Rohit and Suryakumar's minds function; in his early days with the Indian team, he was privy to how Kohli went about his business. His propensity to soak in information and to then make his own decisions should stand Gill in good stead, as should the experience of leading Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League.

Got what it takes

Gill has all the attributes needed to be a long-term success in all formats. Primarily a back-foot player, he is strong square of the wicket on both sides, short-arm jabs rather than full flourishes his calling card. On the bouncier tracks in Australia when he cut his teeth in Test cricket in December 2020, Gill looked completely at home, making 45 and 35 not out in India's victory in Melbourne, backing those up with an even 50 in the next Test in Sydney and breezing to 91 in the second innings of the final game in Brisbane when India rewrote the history books by hunting down 328 in the fourth innings.

Like all top-notch players, Gill had time to spare even at that early stage of his career. Equally impressive was his composure and his intelligent decision-making. Australia is the hardest place for a youngster to make his debut, but Gill was unfazed in the face of verbals or a barrage of short deliveries from Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood. It didn't take long for Australia's gun pace attack to figure out that they would be better off trying to drag Gill on to the front foot than bounce him out, such was the felicity with which he handled the short stuff.

Respecting the ball

His ability to adjust to conditions is one of Gill's massive strengths. In Test cricket, he is willing to give the ball the respect it deserves, though he isn't averse to punishing even the first delivery of the match if he believes it is there to be hit. In the two limited-overs versions, he is more attacking. At one stage primarily a four-hitter, he has worked tirelessly to expand his repertoire and is now a consummate clearer of the boundary ropes. His driving over the top to the straight field is a thing of beauty, but because he also plays the pull stroke with such authority and isn't chary of cutting the ball aerially over and behind point, it's hard to tie him down when he is firing on all cylinders.

The 50-over format has been his most rewarding; he averages 61.37 and strikes at 103.46 in 44 matches, six hundreds contributing heavily to his considerable tally of 2,271 runs. His T20I career is still in its infancy; 21 games is hardly anything in an era where 20-over encounters are dime a dozen, but now that he has the security of the vice-captaincy to fall back on, he is certain to double that tally in quick time. In the IPL, Gill is a prolific scorer - in 2023, for instance, he made back-to-back hundreds in the league phase during a breakout year that yielded him 890 runs and even in the 2024 season, which he approached on the back of a lean run in internationals, he amassed 426 runs - and over the last month, he has shown that he isn't far away from extending that form to country vs country battle too.

It's in the five-day format that India will hope Gill continues to develop and perform. In the West Indies last year, Rohit and then head coach Rahul Dravid acquiesced in his request to drop down to No. 3. In his first ten innings at that new position, he had a highest of 36, but since breaking through with 104 against England in Visakhapatnam in February, he has stacked up subsequent scores of 91, 38, 52 not out and 110. It's the kind of consistency that will hearten Rohit and new head coach Gautam Gambhir, given that India have five-Test away tours of Australia and England lined up over the next 12 months. Gill has admitted to being excited at the prospect of a return to Australia, where he made his Test debut; he also has a point to prove in England where in six innings thus far, his highest is 28.

Apart from his elegance at the batting crease, Gill possesses exceptional hands in the slip cordon. India's pacers - led by Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami and Mohammed Siraj - are adept at finding the edges. For a long time, they were helped in the cause by Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane, expert catchers close-in. Gill is an able successor to that duo, which magnifies the significance of his permanence in the landscape of Test cricket.

For now, the world is Gill's oyster. At 24, he still has the exuberance and intrepidness of youth, but he has also been around long enough to have matured and understood his place in the larger scheme of things. He knows that barring the unforeseen, he has a long career ahead of him, much of that as captain in at least one, if not all formats. It's a great position to be in; not even some of the greatest names in Indian cricket have enjoyed that luxury, so it's now entirely up to Gill how he plays this from here onwards. There is no reason to fear, given the wares he has displayed so far, that Gill will stray from the beaten path.

His adaptability and situational awareness were on show during the T20I series against Sri Lanka in Pallekele. In the first match, on an absolute belter, Gill took the attack to the bowling, smashing six fours and a six on his way to a 16-ball 34. Three nights later, on an entirely different surface that discouraged extravagant stroke-play, Gill sized up the conditions superbly and ground out a 37-ball 39, unglamorous but vitally significant in the final analysis. By subjugating his ego and showing that he is capable of batting at the gear that the conditions demand, Gill's versatility revealed itself. It's precisely this trait, as batter, catcher and leader, that Gill will seek to maximise over the next several years.

THE GIST

- Apart from his elegance at the batting crease, Gill possesses exceptional hands in the slip cordon
- As openers in T20I, Gill and Jaiswal complement rather than compete with each other
- Gill is one of the few all-format players left in the Indian set-up
- His adaptability and situational awareness are huge strengths

AI-based lung cancer screening in State detects 133 lung nodule malignancy in nine months

Nearly 3,000 TB-presumptive cases also detected using the technology. August 1 is observed as World Lung Cancer Day

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Of the 20,418 patients screened for lung cancer through the State Health Department's artificial intelligence (AI) programme in 19 district hospitals since November last year, as many as 133 patients have been detected with high lung nodule malignancy, which is often a precursor to lung cancer.

One confirmed case

Of these patients, who have been referred to specialists for further investigations, one confirmed lung cancer was detected on CT this month. Officials said the remaining patients are yet to come back with reports. Besides, among the 20,418 screened, as many as 2,805 have been found to have presumptive tuberculosis. August 1 is observed as World Lung Cancer Day.

With most lung cancer cases detected at the last stage in the absence of specific common testing techniques for the disease, early intervention has become a challenge. In this context, the State Health Department had tied up with AstraZeneca to deploy AI-based lung cancer screening technology in its hospitals.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said the AI-based lung cancer screening technology would screen a patient for 29 lung diseases in one chest X-ray. Developed by Qure.ai, this AI-powered chest X-ray system will help the government detect lung nodules, overcoming a major early detection challenge, he said.

Incidence of cancer

In Karnataka, the incidence of cancer is increasing by about 1% each year in both men and women. In 2023, a total of 88,873 cancer cases were recorded in the State of which 5,272 (5.9%) were lung cancers.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. says the AI-based lung cancer screening technology screens a patient for 29 lung diseases in one chest X-ray. GETTY IMAGES

According to data from the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology, the institute sees around 25,000 new cancer cases every year. "In 2023, 11,712 patients tested positive for malignancy and of these 721 (6.2%) were diagnosed with lung cancers (508 male patients and 213 female patients) at Kidwai. Of these, only around 500 patients continue treatment," said L.K. Rajeev, associate professor in Medical Oncology at the institute.

Stating that the number of patients continuing treatment for lung cancer is increasing when compared with that in the last decade, Dr. Rajeev said late presentation remains a crucial issue. "Most patients present with fourth-stage cancers. Of the 15% who report in early stages, only 5% are fit to undergo surgeries," the doctor said.

Most prevalent cancer

Quoting findings from the National Cancer Registry Programme, Prashant Mathur, director of the Indian Council of Medical Research - National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR) in Bengaluru, said lung cancer is one of the most prevalent and fatal forms of cancer in the country, ranking as the first leading site among men and fifth leading site among women.

"The incidence of lung cancer has been steadily rising, with major risk factors including tobacco use and air pollution. A recent study done by the ICMR-NCDIR, looking at various published studies found a strong link between air pollution and cancer, specifically showing that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) in the air are associated with higher rates of lung cancer and deaths resulting from it," Dr. Mathur said.

"The projected number of lung cancer cases in 2025 is estimated to be 81,219 among men and 30,109 among women. A recent analysis of 44,218 lung cancers confirmed that about half of the patients were in an advanced stage of disease at the time of diagnosis," he pointed out.

It was mutton, not dog meat, says lab report; FIR against Puneeth, Pratap Simha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The two and their associates were booked for unlawful assembly and preventing police from discharging their duties

As drama continued over allegations of dog meat being transported from Rajasthan to Bengaluru by train, an FIR was registered against cow vigilante Puneeth Kerehalli, former MP Pratap Simha, and their associates by the Basaveshwaranagar police on Wednesday for unlawful assembly and preventing police personnel from discharging their duties.

The duo staged a protest alleging police brutality and also demanded an FIR against the meat trader, Abdul Razaq. This, even as K. Srinivas, Food and Health Commissioner, said the alleged dog meat seized at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station had been confirmed as mutton after a DNA analysis. The sample collected from the seized meat was sent to the national meat research institute, which is the nodal lab for the department, and the report confirmed that is mutton, Mr. Srinivas said.

It all started on July 26 night when a group of cow vigilantes led by Kerehalli staged a protest at the railway station alleging that dog meat was being smuggled from Rajasthan by train to supply to hotels here. The police seized 90 insulated boxes containing approximately 2,700 kg of meat that had arrived from Jaipur, Rajasthan. A team of Karnataka FSSAI inspected the insulated boxes and collected samples and sent them to the food laboratory for analysis.

On Wednesday, Mr. Simha staged a protest in front of the Basaveshwaranagar police station alleging police brutality against Kerehalli. Mr. Simha claimed that Kerehalli was detained at the Cottonpet police station even before he was produced before a magistrate and accused Vijayanagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Chandan Kumar of subjecting Kerehalli to torture.

"He [Kerehalli] was taken into a room at the Cottonpet police station. He was stripped. Kerehalli has alleged that the ACP tortured him. Does the law allow anyone to be stripped?," Mr. Simha questioned. He also said that a complaint has been filed before the Police Commissioner seeking action against the ACP.

The police bundled the duo along with their supporters and took them to the station where a case was filed for creating a ruckus and protesting without permission.

Kerehalli was arrested on July 26 night after he and his associates created a ruckus at the railway station.

He has been named in over half-a-dozen criminal cases. He was arrested for the murder of 39-year-old Idrees Pasha in April 2023 in an incident of cow vigilantism. The Bengaluru police had booked him under the Goonda Act, but the High Court of Karnataka quashed the case.

HC adjourns Darshan's plea to allow prison brass to decide on his request

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Darshan

Observing orally that authorities cannot create a distinction among the undertrial prisoners for providing nutritious food, the High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday adjourned further hearing on the petition filed by actor Darshan, who is seeking permission to have food from home, till the Superintendent of Bengaluru Central Prison decided his written request made in this regard.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while adjourning further hearing on the petition.

Nutritious diet

"Every undertrial, every citizen requires a nutritious diet. Merely because a prisoner is poor, rich, influential, non-influential, an actor..., or whoever it is, he is ultimately an undertrial. Ultimately if he [an undertrial prisoner] is in such a need that his health is so deteriorating and that would definitely need special diet, doctors in the prison will prescribe what [diet] he should be given," the court orally observed.

Reacting to the court's observations, Mr. Darshan's advocate said the actor was not seeking any extra facility being a celebrity as that tag itself has somehow become disadvantageous to him now. While pointing out that the prison doctor in his medical certificate has recommended nutritious food for the actor citing his health, the advocate pleaded the court not to treat the actor as a celebrity.

As the State Public Prosecutor (SPP) said the prison authorities would examine the request made by the actor for allowing food from home and other facilities as per the law, Mr. Darshan's advocate said the court could grant some time for the prison authorities to take a decision. The SPP also pointed out that the recommendation made for nutritious food by the prison doctor was with reference to the actor's health as he was suffering with fever and nothing special.

Prison manual

Meanwhile, the court said it would examine, if required, whether the provision of the prison manual, which prohibits an undertrial facing murder charges from procuring his own bedding and other facilities, is contrary to the provisions of the Karnataka Prison Act framed based on the directions of the apex court and the actor cannot claim that it is contrary to the Act.

A metropolitan magistrate court has recently rejected the actor's plea for food from home and other facilities while citing a bar for such facilities in the manual for an accused facing murder charge.

Two-day mentors' training programme held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru branch of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, organised a two-day residential mentors' training programme for teacher mentors of the BIS Standard Clubs from July 30.

According to a release from the BIS, as many as 25 mentors from various districts of Karnataka participated in the programme.

Suresh Kumar K.M., Joint Director, Department of Technical Education, Karnataka, who was the chief guest, in his address, highlighted the significance of standards in everyday life and discussed their impact on safety and quality of life. Manjunath K., Block Resource Coordinator, BEO North 1, was present as the guest of honour.

One in three vegetarian orders originate from city: Swiggy analysis

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With one in every three vegetarian orders originating from the city, Bengaluru is the "Veggie valley" of India, says an order analysis from Swiggy, the on-demand convenience platform which launched its first Green Dot Awards spotlighting the restaurants selling the best in vegetarian food across the country.

According to a release, six of the country's top 10 most-ordered dishes are vegetarian, including masala dosa, paneer butter masala, Margherita pizza, and pav bhaji. In Bengaluru, the top vegetarian dishes were masala dosa, paneer biryani, and paneer butter masala.

"As expected, breakfast is the golden hour for vegetarian orders, with over 90% of breakfast orders being vegetarian. Masala dosa, vada, idli, and pongal topped the morning charts. Masala dosa enjoys nationwide popularity and is a popular choice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Margherita pizza takes the lead as the most popular snack with samosa and pav bhaji trailing close behind. Even international QSR chains are seeing a surge in vegetarian orders," added the release.

Masala dosa enjoys nationwide popularity and is a popular choice for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, according to the Swiggy analysis. FILE PHOTO

Rowdy sheeter involved in municipal councillor's murder shot at, caught

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anekal police opened fire at a 28-year-old rowdy sheeter who was allegedly involved in the brutal murder of a 38-year-old municipal councillor outside his office at Bahadurpura on Wednesday.

The deceased, Ravi, also known as 'Scrap' Ravi, was attacked by a group of armed men while he was leaving the office. He was chased and hacked to death on the busy road last week.

Was on the run

The police registered a case of murder and formed a special team to track down the accused. While two of the assailants surrendered before the court and were later taken into custody, the prime accused, Karthik, was on the run.

The police on Wednesday, based on the information that Karthik was hiding near an isolated place, surrounded the area and warned him using a public announcement system to surrender. The accused, allegedly armed with a weapon, tried to attack police personnel in a bid to escape.

Inspector Thippeswamy opened a warning fire before shooting at Karthik's leg to stop him from fleeing, said the police. Karthik was later shifted to hospital where he is recovering.

Several criminal cases

The accused has over half a dozen criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder, and extortion, and used to have rivalry with Ravi over different issues. This could be one of the reasons for the murder, the police said, adding that further investigations are on to ascertain the exact reason behind the murder.

EDUCATION HUB
A Business Initiative

Volvo Group India Private Limited (VGIPL) signs Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) to collaborate on the design and delivery of the M.Tech Smart Mobility course.

Vellore Institute of Technology has signed a MoU with Volvo Group India Private Limited to collaborate on the design and delivery of the M.Tech Smart Mobility course, as well as to provide students with support for internships and placements. In line with VIT's dedication to fostering collaboration between academia and industry, VIT signed the MoU with VGIPL, recently to augment automotive education within the nation. The flagship M.Tech degree in Smart Mobility will incorporate specialist credit courses to provide students with up-to-date automotive industry innovations. VGIPL will provide industry-specific projects to university students who have chosen to participate in the programme. The MoU additionally encompasses the provision of internship and apprenticeship opportunities to students pursuing relevant academic programmes. Meanwhile, VGI CSR Trust has recently signed a MoU with VIT to sponsor and support five female students in the field of engineering education (B.Tech.) for a period of four years as part of the "Volvo Group Educational Scholarship Programme." For the duration of four years (2024-2028), the VGI CSR Trust will sponsor the tuition fee for five selected female students who are enrolling in B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering, B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering [Electric Vehicles], or B.Tech. Mechanical Engineering [Manufacturing Engineering] programmes. These initiatives were organised jointly by the School of Mechanical Engineering and Career Development Centre of VIT Vellore. Dr. G. Viswanathan, Founder & Chancellor, of VIT, and Mr. G.V. Rao, Director of CSR at VGI signed the MoU in the presence of VIT VPs, Mr. Sankar Viswanathan, and Dr. G.V. Selvam, VC Dr. V. S. Kanchana Bhaaskaran, Pro-VC Dr. Partha Sharathi Mallick, Registrar Dr. T. Jayabarathi, Dr. T.P. Ranjith, Head of Talent Acquisition at VGI, and Mr. Prabu Krishnan, Deputy Manager of Talent Acquisition at VGI.

Narayana unveils Guidecast: a podcast offering expert insights for every parent

Narayana Educational Institutions, with a legacy spanning 45 years, has been instrumental in fulfilling the dreams of countless students. Renowned for their commitment to academic excellence, Narayana understands that true success is multi-faceted, encompassing not only academic achievements but also the mental and physical well-being of their students. To further this over-all approach, Narayana has launched a new podcast called Guidecast. The podcast will cover multiple topics such as mental well-being, physical well - being, etc and aims to help parents strengthen their relationship with children. Expert speakers will address these topics, emphasising their importance and providing valuable insights. The first season will focus on mental well-being, offering guidance and support to help students navigate the challenges they face. Through Guidecast, Narayana aims at providing insightful discussions, expert advice, and inspiring stories to assist parents in navigating their child's journey with confidence and clarity. Dr. P. Sindhura, Director at Narayana Educational Institutions, emphasised the importance of mental well-being in their educational philosophy. Delving into various aspects of student development, the podcast will provide practical tips, empowering perspectives, and valuable insights from educators and experts. Whether you're seeking guidance on academic success, emotional well-being, or overall growth, Guidecast by Narayana is your go-to resource, stated Ms. P. Sharani, Director of Narayana Educational Institutions.

CMR University Inaugurates 2024-25 Academic Year with Grand Orientation Event

CMR University inaugurated its 2024-25 academic programmes for School of Economics and Commerce, School of Legal Studies, School of Management and School of Science & Computer Studies with a spectacular Inaugural and Orientation function, at OMBR Campus. The event saw the participation of nearly 850+ enthusiastic new students and their parents, eager to begin this new chapter in their educational journey. The occasion was honored by the presence of Prof. Chambi Puranik, the Chief Academic Advisor and former Member of the Distance Education Council (DEC), New Delhi, who served as the chief guest. The event also featured prominent figures such as Dr. HB Raghavendra, VC; Dr. Praveen R, Registrar, Deans and Directors of the university. Welcoming the gathering, Dr. HB Raghavendra congratulated the students for placing their confidence in the university and thanked the parents for trusting CMR University to mentor their wards. After inaugurating the ceremony, Prof. Chambi Puranik delivered an inspiring speech, urging students to understand the value of discipline. The event signalled the start of an exciting journey for the new batch, who were warmly welcomed into the CMR University community. With a strong focus on providing quality education and a supportive environment, CMR University is dedicated to shaping future leaders equipped with the skills and vision to make a positive impact on society.

Saint Mary's P.U. College Hosts Seminar on Artificial Intelligence

Recently the Department of Computer Science at Saint Mary's P.U. College, Chikkamagaluru, organized a seminar on "Artificial Intelligence (AI)" to raise awareness and understanding of AI's significance and application. The resource person, AI expert Mr. Deekshith K.N., demonstrated AI applications and provided valuable insights, leaving students better prepared for future advancements. His presentation highlighted AI's transformative impact across various industries and its positive effects on different sectors. Dr. Gregory Vinod Lobo, the CM of the college, stated that the seminar aimed to foster curiosity and confidence in AI among students. He emphasized the importance of AI knowledge for the future and encouraged students to acquire the necessary skills to thrive in an AI-driven world. Mrs. Sushma Raghavendra, the Principal, stressed the importance of such activities in introducing students to AI and promoting the proper use of technology. The event saw enthusiastic participation, with students actively engaging in discussions and posing questions about AI and its practical applications. The program successfully educated students on AI's crucial role in modern society and inspired them to explore its potential further. Mrs. Vijetha T. Prabhu, Head of the Department of Computer Science, and Mr. Suhan Ali guided the students in organizing this event.

‘Zombies’ in our genes helped us evolve, and could help fight cancers

Scientists may soon uncover more insights into the evolutionary significance of ERVs and their contribution to human biology. This will lead to breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, cancer therapies, and personalised medicine, enhancing our understanding of human health and evolution

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

While most viral encounters are transient and merely inconvenient, some can have devastating or chronic consequences, leading to severe disease or even death. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases around us are good examples. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Viruses are ubiquitous entities that have long plagued humans, often presenting in pesky, self-limiting infections, like a bout of the common cold. While most viral encounters are transient and merely inconvenient, some can have devastating or chronic consequences, leading to severe disease or even death. The recent COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging infectious diseases around us are good examples.

However, this battle between host and pathogen churns up a fascinating question: could viral infections have reshaped the human genome in the process?

A unique enzyme

Most viruses can’t really affect the genome. However, retroviruses buck this trend: they are a group of viruses that can integrate and reshape the genomes of the hosts they infect. Retroviruses have an RNA genome; can reverse-transcribe it to DNA and thus insert it into the host’s genome.

Their name comes from a unique enzyme they possess, called reverse transcriptase. It’s the one with the ability to convert the virus’s RNA into a corresponding DNA sequence. Teams led by Howard Temin at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and David Baltimore at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reported its discovery in 1971. It spawned a widespread search for viruses that have this enzyme.

The knowledge that these viruses could cause cancer was even then well-known, even if the mechanism wasn’t clear until the 1971 teams’ reports. Oluf Bang and Vilhelm Ellermann had discovered the viral cause of chicken leukosis back in 1908 while Ludwik Gross isolated a leukaemia-causing virus in mice in 1957.

The discovery of HIV

But it wasn’t until 1980 that researchers – Robert C. Gallo & co. – found the first human retrovirus. Dr. Gallo had extensively worked on the human T lymphotropic virus (HTLV) and his group isolated it from a patient with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma. This work was later published in the *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences*.

As if in quick succession, in 1983, Françoise Barré-Sinoussi, working closely with Luc Montagnier at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, reported the discovery of a retrovirus from the lymph node of a patient suffering from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

French researchers initially called the virus the lymphadenopathy-associated virus (LAV) while American researchers called it HTLV-3. Both these names were superseded by the name ‘human immunodeficiency virus’ (HIV) in 1986. For their discovery, Dr. Barré-Sinoussi and Dr. Montagnier were awarded the medicine Nobel Prize in 2008.

Genomic elements left behind

In the life cycle of a retrovirus, the reverse-transcribed DNA is integrated into the host’s DNA along with another enzyme called integrase, which acts like glue to bind the two DNA genomes. Once bound, the viral DNA is called a provirus, and is complete with all the ingredients it needs to be functional. At the end of this process, the virus practically hijacks human cells and turns them into virus-making factories.

It’s typically not possible for a person to inherit retrovirus infections or even the provirus because these integrations usually damage only a subset of cells. However, such genome invasions can sometimes mess up the integration process, causing ‘zombie’ regions in the host’s genome. These parts are called endogenous retroviruses (ERVs). ERVs usually can’t replicate and produce functional proteins since they lack their regulatory regions.

If the abortive integrations involve the germ cells – i.e. those that produce the gametes, sperm cells and ova – the host will be able to transmit its ERVs to its offspring. This happens in rare instances. This said, over the tens of thousands of years of mammalian evolution, many retroviruses have left a number of genomic elements in the genome, sort of the genetic fossils of early infections. These elements have long lost the potential to produce viruses but researchers believe they have played a big hand in the evolution of their hosts. In fact, research strongly suggests around 8% of the human genome is composed of ERVs.

Biomarker for preeclampsia?

A good example of their influence are the syncytins, a class of genes thought to be descended from an ERV. That is, these genes originally came from viruses and were acquired by chance as the mammalian host evolved. But at some point they became essential for the host because they helped create the placenta, an organ that became crucial to support a growing baby.

This change is thought to have been important for the evolution of mammals with placentas from their egg-laying ancestors. Over time, the original ERV’s envelope gene (*env*) was thought to be modified or replaced by new versions, forming the syncytin genes as we see today in different mammal species.

> Most viruses can’t affect the genome. However, retroviruses are a group of viruses that can integrate and reshape the genomes of the hosts. Retroviruses have an RNA genome. They can reverse-transcribe it to DNA and thus insert it into the host’s genome

Syncytins are important genes involved in placental development; many ERVs are also highly expressed in the placenta. In a recent paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, researchers from Sun Yat Sen University in China reported that a particular RNA was dysregulated in early-onset preeclampsia – a condition during pregnancy where the blood pressure shoots up. This RNA was derived from an ERV. The study also suggested that the presence of this RNA could be used as a biomarker for the condition.

Tumours in colorectal cancer

ERVs are also involved in cell-type differentiation. In the early stages of embryo development, cells transition from totipotency (the ability to become any cell type) to pluripotency (the ability to become the three primary germ cell types). This transition is important because it produces pluripotent stem cells that can form different cell types.

Scientists recently discovered a protein called MERVL-gag derived from an ERV. They found MERVL-gag plays a key role in controlling some other proteins during this transition. They also found MERVL-gag works closely with another protein called URI, which helps the embryo transition from totipotency to pluripotency. Their results were published recently in the journal *Science Advances*.

In another recent paper in the same journal, researchers at the University of Colorado, Boulder, suggested that one human ERV element – or a portion of its DNA – called LTR10 significantly affects the formation of tumours in colorectal cancer. The LTR10 retroelement seems to have been integrated into the genome some 30 million years ago. The authors found conclusive evidence that among humans, different cancers could regulate LTR10 retroelements differently using specific epigenetic marks in the element.

The study also reported that the retroelement’s presence could produce large genomic changes, which could in turn affect the expression of the genes involved in tumour formation.

In future, as research techniques continue to advance, scientists may uncover more wonderful insights into the evolutionary significance of ERVs and their contribution to human biology. Such knowledge will undoubtedly lead to breakthroughs in regenerative medicine, cancer therapies, and personalised medicine, ultimately enhancing our understanding of human health and evolution.

(The authors are senior consultants at Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation and adjunct professors at IIT Kanpur and Dr. D.Y. Patil Medical College, Hospital & Research Centre, Pune.)

Athletes begin the swimming component of the women’s individual triathlon in the Seine River at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Organisers of the Olympics almost lost their bet against climate change

Associated Press

With plans for athletes to swim the Seine River through the heart of Paris, Olympic organisers essentially bet against climate change’s extreme weather. For several days it appeared they would lose – by ditching the swimming portion of triathlon races.

It wasn’t until early Wednesday, after the men’s race had been postponed a day and test events called off, that organisers announced the most recent tests showed the water met standards to allow swimming.

Some scientists and engineers said organisers were taking a gamble at a time when heavy rains have increased with human-caused climate change, especially in Europe. The rains carried run off from the urban environment and contribute to higher bacteria levels in the city’s famed river.

“They just gambled, flipped the coin and hope for a dry season and it turned out to be the rainiest in the last 30 years,” said Metin Duran, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Villanova University who has researched stormwater management.

Organisers “had worked through most of the scenarios related to computer hacking and physical threats without fully assessing the implications of extreme events associated with climate,” said University of Arizona climate scientist Kathy Jacobs, who directs the Centre for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions. “It’s definitely time to take climate threats seriously.”

If any city could be expected to be

Scientists and engineers said organisers took a gamble at a time when heavy rains have increased with human-caused climate change. The rains carried run off from the urban environment into the Seine

mindful of the challenges of climate change, it’s Paris. It’s where the most significant climate agreement in history was struck almost a decade ago – to try to limit the earth’s warming to 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial levels. And the Paris games aspire to have half the carbon footprint of earlier games held in London and Rio de Janeiro.

Paris, like many older cities around the world, has a combined sewer system, which means that the city’s wastewater and stormwater flow through the same pipes.

With heavy or prolonged periods of rain, the pipes’ capacity is reached, sending raw wastewater into the river instead of a treatment plant.

Paris spent 1.4 billion euros to improve the water quality in the Seine, including building a giant basin to capture excess rainwater and keep wastewater from entering the river, renovating sewer infrastructure and upgrading wastewater treatment plants.

But persistent rains, which dampened the opening ceremonies and temporarily gave way to a heat warning on Tuesday, worked against that.

Tuesday’s men’s triathlon was postponed to Wednesday. The city has had at least 80 rainy days in Paris so far this year, about two-and-a-half weeks more than normal, according to the French meteorological office.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The discovery of oxygen

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

250 years ago, on this day, the English chemist Joseph Priestley published his findings regarding the discovery of what he called “dephlogisticated air,” later called oxygen. Name the Swedish chemist who had discovered oxygen a year earlier but hadn’t yet published his findings.

QUESTION 2

Name the French nobleman who first identified the object of Priestley’s finding as a new chemical element and also gave it the name ‘oxygen’.

QUESTION 3

Starting from the work of Philo of Byzantium in ancient Greece until that of Anglo-Irish natural philosopher Robert Boyle, people realised air was required for combustion. Name the English chemist who identified the part of air required for combustion, which he called “spiritus nitroaereus.” He subsequently published an important tract on respiration based on these and other findings.

QUESTION 4

This British physiologist was noted for his studies and theories of the effects of gases, including on the human body, many of which he tested by experimenting on himself and his son. He developed the oxygen tent during World War I to help soldiers affected by poison gases. Name his son.

QUESTION 5

To humans, oxygen becomes _____ when it is supplied at a pressure of more than 50 kilopascal. This is also why the practice of placing premature babies in oxygen-rich incubators was discontinued. Fill in the blank with an adjective.

Answers to July 30 quiz:

1. Part of waves that can travel faster than the same part of light waves in some media – **Ans: Phase**
2. Quantum phenomenon with instantaneous transfer of information – **Ans: Entanglement**
3. Ratio of the speed of light in a vacuum to the speed in a medium – **Ans: Refractive index**
4. Exotic matter states that could reportedly “stop” light – **Ans: Bose-Einstein condensate**
5. Parts of the universe expanding at less than the speed of light – **Ans: Hubble volume**

Visual: **Cherenkov radiation**

First contact: Seema Das | Irfan Ali | Subhadip Paria | K.N. Viswanathan | Shreya Arora

Visual: These individuals died in a fire that spread rapidly because the capsule they were testing was filled with highly pressurised oxygen. Name the NASA mission for which this crew had been picked. NASA

For feedback and suggestions
for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

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Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

2220/13/246/2023/36213

Information and Public Relations Department, Punjab

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Palestinians who died in Israeli detention since October 7

53 The UN Human Rights office said in a report that thousands of Palestinians — including medics, patients, residents — have been detained in Israel. The detainees had been held in secret. AFP

The financial assistance to Georgia halted by the U.S.

95 in $ million. This decision was triggered by Georgia's recent "anti-democratic actions" which did not align with the EU's and NATO's membership norms, according to Secretary of State Antony Blinken. REUTERS

Complaints of child porn, rape received on NCRP portal

1.94 In lakh. The National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) has received 16.18 crore visitors till April 30, according to Women and Children Development Minister Annapurna Devi. PTI

The World Bank's rescue package to Ethiopia

1.50 In $ billion. The financial package aims to support Ethiopia's economic reform programme. The decision comes after it broke with decades of managing the birr (local currency). AFP

State of emergency extended by the Myanmar Junta

6 months. The country has been in turmoil since the February 2021 coup which ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and sparked protests and a crackdown on dissent. AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On discarding indexation for LTCG

Why has the Union Finance Minister done away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax? What is indexation and how does it help in tax savings? What has been the feedback from corporates and industry regarding the move?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:
Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Union Budget about doing away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax has not drawn much enthusiasm. She had proposed that long-term gains on all financial and non-financial assets would now be taxed at 12.5% instead of a tiered structure, albeit abandoning indexation. A memorandum explaining the provisions of the Finance Bill (2024), stated that this was to "ease computation of capital gains for the taxpayer and tax administration".

What purpose does indexation serve?
Imagine, an individual buys a house for ₹10 lakh in 2001. For reasons such as inflation and/or a vibrant property market, they are able to sell the same property in 2021 at ₹75 lakh. Here, it may appear that they gained ₹65 lakh and should be taxed accordingly.

However, the figure does not consider the price levels prevailing at the time of sale with that of purchase. This is where the Cost Inflation Index (CII) comes in. Indexation ensures that taxpayers are taxed on real gains than gains at prevailing prices, which are a result of general increase in prices, and not economic growth, during the course.

In the stated example, the CII for 2021 (that is, 317) would be divided by that for the base year 2001 (100) to derive a number. It would then be multiplied with the purchase price (that is, ₹10 lakh). Thus, the indexed cost becomes ₹31.7 lakhs and the individual's taxable gain is revised downwards to ₹43.3 lakhs. At the erstwhile 20% rate, they would now be required to pay a long-term capital gains tax of approximately ₹8.7 lakhs. With the new system however, the ₹65 lakh would be taxed at a lower 12.5%. Thus, a tax liability of ₹8.13 lakh.

GETTY IMAGES

What is the issue?
Abhijit Mukhopadhyay, consulting economist at the Secretariat explained to *The Hindu* that the eventual tax liability is broadly determined by two factors, that is, the rate on return and the subjected time-period.

In this light, it is essential to note that not all assets may experience the same exponential growth as in the example above. This could be because of a flat market or a temporary period of slump. This is primarily where the indexation turns out to be more favourable. To illustrate, let us say that in 2021 instead of ₹75 lakh, the house is sold for ₹40 lakh. When adjusted with indexation, the tax liability is ₹1.66 lakh against ₹3.75 lakh without indexation.

Furthermore, a BankBazaar study, basing an assessment from the RBI's House Price Index, observed that without indexation, LTCG tax went up about three times on properties purchased after 2010. Keeping its base year as FY 2010-11, the study noted a "severe loss of tax savings" especially in the years from 2016-17. "From zero tax liability across the board, we see significant liabilities arising for these years (since 2016-17)," the study found. The Income Tax department, however, estimates that real estate returns (12-16% per annum) are much higher than indexation for inflation (4-5%), depending on the period of holding. Therefore, it predicts "substantial tax savings" to a "vast majority" of taxpayers.

According to Mr Mukhopadhyay, an individual stands to benefit more from the revised provisions if they sell the assets expeditiously (say, 3-4 years) instead of holding it for a longer-time period (say, 10 years or more). Furthermore, he explained that with the change, real-estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure funds stand to suffer because they "do not have the same high rate of returns as an equity market". With respect to bonds, Anil Talreja, Partner at Deloitte India, held that feedback has been "a bit muted" given the lack of indexation. "Hence this may impact the popularity of the instrument," he said.

What does this mean for assets?
According to Mr. Talreja, whilst the removal of indexation is "adding dampness" to the overall sentiment, the reduction of the base rate of tax was providing "balance to the dampness". He explains, "A lot depends on the nature of the asset, the time when the asset was purchased (during the price boom or otherwise). Based on this, it would continue to lead to different reactions from various sections of the society."

For real estate, Mr Mukhopadhyay observes that those looking to buy a second house for the purpose of investment may potentially refrain from doing so. "They would have to sell if off quickly to profit from the revised provisions," he explains. The paradigm however is potentially minimised, according to him, for those who intend to buy a house to reside themselves. Pertinent to note here, the Income Tax department clarified that for assets acquired before April 1, 2001, the individual would have the option to choose between fair market value as on that date (April 1, 2001) and the actual cost of acquiring the asset as the basis to compute the capital gain on sale. This paves the way for an indexation cushion for pre-2001 acquisitions.

The other set of concerns as also pointed out by AAP MP Raghav Chadha in the Rajya Sabha, entail potential sale of properties at circle rates (minimum price at which a real estate is to be sold) only. Undervaluing the real estate helps furbish lower capital gains, thus, lesser taxation. Further, Mr Chadha also warned about increased black money transactions in the sector – another means to hide gains.

THE GIST

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the Union Budget about doing away with indexation for computing long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax has not drawn much enthusiasm.
- Indexation ensures that taxpayers are taxed on real gains than gains at prevailing prices, which are a result of general increase in prices, and not economic growth, during the course.
- Furthermore, a BankBazaar study, basing an assessment from the RBI's House Price Index, observed that without indexation, LTCG tax went up about three times on properties purchased after 2010. Keeping its base year as FY 2010-11, the study noted a "severe loss of tax savings" especially in the years from 2016-17.

Why have violent protests in Kenya continued?

Why was the financial Bill so controversial? Why are people protesting even after the Bill was withdrawn by Kenyan President William Ruto? What does this mean for the region at large?

Anu Maria Joseph

The story so far:
On June 25, protests turned violent in Kenya when lawmakers passed a controversial financial Bill. Although President William Ruto withdrew the Bill the next day, protests continued. According to the Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC), over 50 people have been killed and 628 were arrested in the violence.

What did the Bill entail?
The Bill was introduced in May and imposed a 16% Value-Added Tax (VAT) on bread, 25% excise duty on cooking oil, 5% tax on digital monetary transactions, an annual 2.5% tax on vehicles, an eco-tax on plastic goods, a 16% tax on goods and services for the construction and equipping of specialised hospitals and an increase in import tax from two to three per cent. The government dropped a few of them after the initial round of protests. The state's larger objective is to collect $2.7 billion in taxes to pay off the debt of $80 billion, which is 68% of Kenya's GDP. The Bill caused public distress due to the increasing cost of living.

Why are protests continuing?
Mr. Ruto withdrew the controversial Bill on June 26 following country-wide violent protests, and when his use of force and the death of the protesters drew global criticism. The protest has since then expanded on its causes, demands, geography and intensity.

The protests were an expression of long-standing discontent over Mr. Ruto's administration and financial management. For example, a month after coming to power, Mr. Ruto scrapped fuel subsidies. The July 2023 protests against another Bill, which introduced a 5% housing levy and a 16% tax on petroleum products, killed 23 people. And thus, the initial intentions behind the protests diverted after the President withdrew the Bill as the use of force, live ammunition and deaths angered the protesters. The second phase of protests was against police brutality. By the third week, it had evolved into anti-government protests over unaddressed public grievances, corruption, mis-governance, and a demand for Mr. Ruto's resignation.

Moreover, the immediate success of the protests encouraged Kenyans to join the masses against all public grievances. Mr. Ruto came to power in September 2022 promising to address unemployment and poverty. However, he failed to maintain the popularity he received during the elections. The trading economics website recorded Kenya's inflation rate at 5.1% in May. The World Bank reported that although Kenya is one of the most developing countries in Africa, a third of its 52 million people live in poverty and that 5.7% of the labour force is unemployed, which is the highest in East Africa.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index 2023, Kenya ranks 126 out of 180.

What next?
Mr. Ruto sacked his cabinet and announced a new one on July 19. While the inclusion of four opposition figures into the cabinet might hold the opposition party from joining the protests, it is less likely to slow down the protests. While the country plunges into a debt crisis, any further financial reforms in the near future would trigger a similar response, implying that Mr. Ruto's administration is in crisis.

Several other African countries are also vulnerable to similar instabilities due to the debt crisis. According to the World Bank, nine African countries face a debt crisis in 2024, and 15 among them are at risk of distress. They depend on regular borrowing, doubling the total debt. The debt burden often forces the governments to either increase the taxes or wait for a debt reconstruction.

However, the Kenyan protests have influenced the African youth and their potential to mobilise the masses. Ugandan youth have followed Kenya, protesting against corruption on July 23. Several other illiberal democracies in Africa are likely to follow Kenya and Uganda. Chosen the same method, protests would trigger violence across the region.

The author is a Research Associate with Africa Studies at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

THE GIST

- On June 25, protests turned violent in Kenya when lawmakers passed a controversial financial Bill. Although President William Ruto withdrew the Bill the next day, protests continued.
- The protests were an expression of long-standing discontent over Mr. Ruto's administration and financial management.
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The public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its owner **Mrs. Kirti Sushant Pai,** wife of Dr. Sushant Anant Pai, residing at 2004, Embassy Habitat, 59, Palace Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru – 560001.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SYED Mustafa Father of Nashraa Tareen, R/at No.189/B, Kamrajnagar, Opp. Basava Kalyana Mantapam, Bhavani Erode, Tamil Nadu-638301 today camp at Bengaluru, have changed my daughter name from Nashraa Tareen to Sayeda Nashraa, vide Affidavit dated 29/07/2024 sworn before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bengaluru.

I, ABDUL Suhaib.A, R/at No.40, 1st A Cross, 15th Main, Chinan Palya, Wilson Garden, Audugodi Post, Bangalore-560030, have changed my name from Abdul Suhaib.A to Abdul Shuaib vide affidavit dated 29/07/2024 before Notary Y.R. Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

I, NIHARIKA D/o Premkumar Krishnaswamy and Nithya Premkumar, R/at P-21, Officers Enclave, HQTC Campus, JC Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560006 have changed my name to Niharika Premkumar, vide Affidavit dated 31.07.2024 sworn before Notary N.Peruvazhuthi, Bengaluru.

HEALTH

SUBAM ACU CARE, Ph: 9731565019, Electronic city. Home visits available on appointment. All physical and mental Treatment through acupuncture.

BUSINESS OFFERS

CORSA GROWTH INVESTMENT
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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 63RD ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSION JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-64)
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 6676 OF 2022
Hg. 09/08/2024

Between:
ICICI Bank Limited,
A body corporate incorporated And registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007
And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru- 560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M Rohit Ali S/o Ishrath Ali M Aged about 25 years
...Plaintiff

And
Mr. Puthenpuryil Varghese Raji S/o Varghese, Aged about 57 years, R/a 3718/G3, Leesa Apartment, 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560 027.
...Defendant
Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Mr. Puthenpuryil Varghese Raji S/o Varghese, Aged about 57 years, R/a 3718/G3, Leesa Apartment, 4th Cross, Lalbagh Road, Wilson Garden, Bengaluru-560 027.
...Defendant

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount Rs. 4,85,781/- together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble City Civil & Session Judge Court, (CCH-64), At Bengaluru, in person or by a advocate/pleader on 09.08.2024 at 11.00AM Failing which the matter will be heard and THE CITY OF determined as "EX-PARTE".
Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 16th day of July, 2024.

By Order of the Court
Senior Sheristedar City Civil Court Bengaluru
Asvocate for plaintifull
Mr. K.N Arvinda Navada.
No. 1774, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560 002.

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, KOPPAL.

No:CMC/SBM/ 2024-25 Date : 30-07-2024

Tender Notification

Koppal City under Commissioner CMC koppal state Governor behalf of Transparency public storage act 2000 and KW-4, rule, works Karnataka state government e-procurement portal in **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** PWD Registers Contractor to Tender invite. Tender form Rate and EMD cost Specified in e-procurement portal
SBM Grant: Name of Work: 1.DMA/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT1705/CALL-2. **Estimate Cost (In lakh):** 559.59. **EMD Cost (in Rs):** 839385.00. **Class of Eligibal Contractor:** Class-1 & Above
Conditions: 1.Period of tender document download in govt e-procurement on-line apply last date.20-08-2024 evening 4.30 PM. 2.Technical bid open date 22-08-2024 Morning 10:30 AM 3.Financial bid open date : 26-08-2024 Morning 10:30 PM or bid open date after published. 4.Similar Nature of work done Submitted as Per KW-4 Releted Works. .Tender Conditions and rules office hours technical dept or (https://www.koppalcity.mrc.gov.in) downlod the information in website. 6.work complition period 8.79 months (Including Rainig Season). 7.Tender rejecteing autority CMC Office. 8.For More information contact to state govt e-procurement portal website(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

Sd/-Municipal Commissioner CMC Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/210/KSMCA/2024-25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through kpp portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two cover system from eligible tenderers for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount
No.	BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-1/TA(E)/1941/2024-25	Date: 29.07.2024
1	Providing, laying, linking of 600mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe line and 150mm dia DI pipe line from Mother Theresa road to Old Race Course road (From Richmond road to Lower Agram road) for BBMP White Topping work coming under Johnson Market service station of AEESE- 1 sub division.	Rs.383.42 Lakhs / Rs.5.75 Lakhs
2	Replacement of 400mm, 300mm, 150mm dia DI pipe line by MS pipe line and DI pipe line at Swamy Vivekananda road coming under Halasuru service station of AEESE-2 sub division.	Rs.196.78 Lakhs / Rs.3.48 Lakhs
3	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm, 200mm dia MS and 150mm dia DI pipe line at Lower Agram road from ASC junction to Ejipura main road for BBMP White Topping work coming under CLR service station of AEESE-1 sub division.	Rs.169.62 Lakhs / Rs.3.00 Lakhs
4	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm, 200mm dia MS water supply line and 150mm dia DI pipe line at Ejipura main road (from SWD Ejipura to IRR) for BBMP White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AEESE- 1 sub division.	Rs.181.78 Lakhs / Rs.2.73 Lakhs
5	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC line inplace of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at Palm Groove road, KH Rehaman road from Victoria road to Military Bazaar Street for proposed White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AEESE-1 sub division.	Rs.150.99 Lakhs / Rs.2.67 Lakhs

The last date for submission of completed tender document is on 14.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs. and the bids will be opened on 16.08.2024 after 11.00 hrs.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.i**n. For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1191/AKAR/2024-25

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU AT THE GAMES PHOTO CONTEST
Turn to the sports pages to participate in today's quiz

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(QA/QC) Division, RR Nagara, Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: EE(QA/QC)/RRN/TEND/27/24-25 Date: 31.07.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Only Through KPP Portal)

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Quality Assurance/Quality Control Division invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those **who have done similar type of work** for **Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC)** for the below works through e-Procurement system by the Executive Engineer QA/QC, RR Nagara Zone BBMP.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality Control for the Redevelopment and Construction of footpath under "Light Tender Sure Model" on major roads joining Metro corridors of Bengaluru City to establish "Last Mile Connectivity" on Purple line connecting metro stations of Kengeri, RR Nagara, Attiguppe, Vijayanagara, BGS & Magadi road (7 roads namely Railway Parallel road, RR Nagara main road, 5th main road, 8th main road, 1st main road, 1st cross road and Dr. Rajkumar road (from GT World Mall). **EMD amount:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Remarks:** Till the completion of the project.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender Documents may be downloaded through E-Portal from: **05.08.2024 onwards.** (2) Pre-bid meeting: **14.08.2024 at 11:00 a.m.** at Office of the Executive Engineer(QA/QC), Room No.101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002. (3) Last date & time for receipt of Tenders: **06.09.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical bid: **09.09.2024 at 4:30 p.m.** (5) Validity of Tenders: 90 days from last date of receipts of Tender.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit e-Procurement portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, QA/QC Division, RR Nagara Zone, BBMP

Executive Engineer B.T.D.A, Dn No.2, Bagalkot

No:EE/BTDA/Dn.2/Tender-01/2024-25/1230 Dated:26.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement only)

Tenders are invited by the under signed for the works on Lumsum Turnkey Bases from registered eligible contractors. **(1)** Indent No: 08 Amount Put To Tender Rs. 1546.13 Lakhs (Inclusive G.S.T) And **(2)** Indent No: 09 Amount Put To Tender Rs. 7249.81 Lakhs (Inclusive G.S.T).

The intending bidders for work details may login to KPPP website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in for detailed notification and submission of the tender. The tender can be submitted till **23.08.2024 up to 5:00 PM** Technical bid will be opened on **27.08.2024 at 11:00 AM** (if possible). And Financial bids will be opened on **30.08.2024 at 11:00 AM** (if possible). Any other details can be obtained from this office in person or over telephone number **08534-297054.**

Please note henceforth, any changes in calendar of events/ corrigendum/ ammendment will be published in KPPP portal only and will not be published in Newspaper.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, BTDA, Division No.02 Bagalkote

DIPR/Bagalkote/146/2024-25/DeshpandePublicity

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
(Government of Tamil Nadu)
Head Office, CMRL Office Campus, Poonamallee High Road, Koyambedu, Chennai – 600 107.

NIT No. QC1/027028/2024 E-TENDER NOTICE Dated : 30.07.2024

Tamil Nadu Civil Supplies Corporation invites online electronic tenders for the **"Supply of 16,000 Nos. of Low Density Black Polyethylene Sheets having the Size of 24 x 18 feet with 250 micron thickness"**

Complete E-Tender document can be viewed, downloaded and uploaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** from **02.08.2024 to 17.08.2024**

The bidders have to participate in online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-III

Last Date for Online Submission : **17.08.2024 upto 11.00 AM**
Tender Opening Date & Time : **19.08.2024 at 11.30 AM**

DIPR/2722/TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

This Office letter No.:033/PB/Tnd/2024-25/5054/1515/ Dated : 26-07-2024

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On 26-07-2024 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal tender notification has been issued for the following Work Indent No. **11221 & 11039** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **26-08-2024 (upto 4.00 PM)** and Work Indent No. **10750 & 10994** Last date for submission of tender receipt is assigned on Dated : **12-08-2024 (upto 4.00 PM).** For further additional information, any changes & queries visit https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- **(Mahabalesappa K.)** Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Haveri.

DIPR/HAVERI/170/2024-25/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

e-mail: zped_cta@yahoo.com zped.cta@gmail.com Ph: 08194-222372

No: PRED/Chi/EE/Tech.Div/Tender/2024-25/814
Date: 30-07-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Panchayat Raj Engineering Department of Chitradurga district has invited tenders for approved 9 works under various projects under Chitradurga District Project, the estimated amount of the said works is minimum Rs.5.50 lakhs and maximum Rs.100.00 lakhs , and total amount is Rs 297.28 lakhs
The tender processing dates are as follows:- (1) Last date and time for receipt of information about tender : 09.08.2024 at 11.00 am (2) Last date and time for submission of tenders : 12.08.2024 at 16.00 pm (3) Date and time for opening of technical bids : 13.08.2024 at 16.01 pm
For more information about the above said tender please contact support@eprochelpdesk.com or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777 or requested to contact office Phone No: 08194-222372 of Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department , Chitradurga – 577501 during office working hours

RO.No.158:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2023-24 Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga

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Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development, Ports & Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
Office of the Chief Executive Officer,
Karnataka Maritime Board, Baithkol, Karwar-581302

File. No.KMB-23/WKS-III/2024-25 Dated: 26.07.2024

TENDER NOTICE
(Only in E-Procurement) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, short term tender is invited for in E-Procurement to execute below mentioned work. To participate in E-Procurement, and for more information visit **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp)** website. For further Extension, if any refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

Name of work: Appointment of Consulting Agency for Providing Project Management Support to Karnataka Maritime Board. **Service Indent Number- IDD/2024-25/SE0028,** Tendered Cost: **Rs. 96,00,000/- (Excluding GST)**, EMD: **Rs. 1,92,000/-**, Last date for Queries/ Clarification: **31.07.2024 @ 17.30 hour,** Last Date of receipt of Tender: **16.08.2024 @ 17.30 hours**

For further details and general enquiries, prospective bidders may contact the undersigned office **(phone No.: 08382-221035/221494)** during working hours.

Sd/- Port Engineer, Karnataka Maritime Board, Karwar

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/204/24-25 Dt: 31.07.2024

TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, CHANNARAYAPATNA, HASSAN DISTRICT

PH.NO: 08176-255411, 254543 email add: itstaff_ulb_channarayapatna@yahoo.co.in website add : http://www.channarayapatnatown.mrc.gov.in/

No. TMC/CRP/EE Tender/CR/08 /2024-25 Date : 30-07-2024

: E-Procurement Tender :

The Chief Officer, TMC, Channarayapatna invites tenders from eligible tenderers, for the development of works detailed in the below. The tenderers may submit the tenders as below. Name of the Work: Construction of Proposed 6TPD MRF Centre Material Recovery Facility of PEB Structure (PRIMARY and SECONDARY SHED) Indent No:- DMA/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT15621/CALL-2 1] Last date and time for receipt of tenders through E-portal: From 30-07-2024 to 15-08-2024, Time:17.30 2] Time and date of opening of Technical bid : date: 17-08-2024 time 11.00 AM

sd/- (K N Hemantha) Chief Officer , TMC Channarayapatna

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/246/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC Division-2, Almel. Tq:Sindagi, Dist:Vijayapur.
Phone no:08488 232298,
Email:kbjnleealmel@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/IBCD-2/PB/2024-25/300 Dated:30.07.2024

INFORMATION QUOTATION NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer KBJNL IBC, Division No-2, Almel, Tq: Almel invites the quotations from the Reputed registered Original Equipment Manufacturer/Dealers/Supplier
For the work of supply ,installation of integrated automated gates on distributary/sub-distributary/laterals/DPO's for varying size, with built in flow meter, solar power panels, communication systems along with establishment of wireless communication network and commissioning of canal automation system from 0.00 to 147.00 km of ILC Project of KBJNL.
The tenderers are required to submit their tenders in Single cover system.
The blank quotation tenders can be obtained through website hhttp://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender box.
1] The Contractor can have access to quotation e-tender documents from **02.08.2024 to 09.08.2024 up to 4.30 PM. 2]** Submission of completed information quotation e-tender document will be upto **09.08.2024 up to 4.30 PM. 3]** Opening of e-tender bids i.e, Cover -I (Financial bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC, Divn No.2 Almel on **12.08.2024 at11.00 AM. 5]** Conditional tenders are liable to be rejected. The officer competent to accept the tender shall have the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what so ever. **6]** Further information can be had from the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KBJNL, IBC Division No-2, Almel.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/146/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Office of the District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, HassanDistrict
Address: D. DevrajUrsBhavan, Shree Vidya Ganapathi Devastana Road, Near Akashavani, Salagame Road, Hassan.-573202
Phone:+91 7019024647, 08172-295108
Email:dobcmhassan@gmail.com Website: https://bcwd.karnataka.gov.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION

FOR SUPPLY OF FOOD MATERIALS TO PRE-METRIC, POST-METRIC HOSTELS UNDER BCW DEPARTMENT IN HASSAN DISTRICT The District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department Hassan District hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from eligible bidders for supply of perishable and non-perishable food materials etc., to the Pre-Metric, Post-Metric Hostels located in Hassan District, Karnataka through Public Procurement Portal of Government of Karnataka (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Prospective bidders willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with above mentioned Public Procurement Portal. 1)Tender Reference No and date No:BCWD/ACCOUNTS/FOOD TENDER/CR-01/24-25 Dt: 29-07-2024 2)Approximate Estimated bid value Rs: 4389.93/- Lakhs (For 2 years) 3)Date and Time for Pre-bid meeting Dt:08-08-2024, 11.30 4)Last date & Time for submission of Tender Dt:28-08-2024, 17.00 5)Date & Time of opening of technical bid Dt: 30-08-2024, 17.30 or Subject to change 6)Tentative Date & Time of opening of Commercial bid Dt: 02-09-2024, 11.30 or Subject to change 7)EMD Amount Rs.4389930/- 8)Venue of pre-bid meeting, opening of tenders & address for communication Office of theDistrict Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Hassan District Address: D. DevrajUrsBhavan, Shree Vidya Ganapathi Devastana Road, Near Akashavani, Salagame Road, Hassan.573202 Phone: 08172-295108, Email: dobcmhassan@gmail.com Prospective suppliers willing to participate in this tender can download the bid documents by visiting the web site http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Sd/-District Officer & Tender Inviting Authority Backward Classes Welfare Department Hassan District

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/241/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Department of AYUSH
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-560009.
Telephone: 080-22876553, Fax: 080-22340139.
E-mail: directorayush.eproc@gmail.com

No: AYUSH/09/Procurement/2024-25 Dt: 30-07-2024

Tender Notification (Through Kpp Portal only)

http://kppp. karnataka.gov.in

The e-tender in Two Document Systems invited from the Tender inviting Authority and Accounts Officer, Department of AYUSH, Bangalore for the Supply of Prepared Diet to Government Unani & Homeopathy Medical College & Hospital Basaveshwarnagar Bangalore as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999-2000 Rules there under.

Calendar of Events

1.	The Tender document will be available from	31.07.2024 at 5:30 p.m.
2.	Last date for uploading tender in Kpp portal on	14.08.2024 at 5:30 p.m.
3.	Opening of Technical bid is on	16.08.2024 at 11:30 a.m.

For further details may be viewed at above website:
Sd/- Accounts Officer/Chairman
(Tender Inviting Authority) Directorate of Ayush,
Dhanvanthri Road, Bengaluru-09

DIPR/CP/RO1199/AAPL/2024-25

BACKWARD CLASSES WELFARE DEPARTMENT
District Office, No. 215, 2nd Floor, DC Office, Birasandra Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District - 562 110.
Ph.: 080-2244 9999, E-mail: dobcmbengalururural@gmail.com

No. : D.B.C./Bengaluru/Rural/Food Tender/Hostel/CR-01/2024-25
Date : 25-07-2024

PAPER NOTIFICATION

Online from Persons / Organizations eligible and registered under various Acts to **Supply Food and other Materials to Pre-Matric and Post-Matric Hostels Functioning in Devanahalli, Doddaballapur, Hoskote and Nelamangala Taluks of Bengaluru Rural District under Backward Classes Welfare Department during the year 2024-25** and **2025-26 (for 2 years).** Tenders are invited through.

Tender Documents can be Downloaded from E-Procurement (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) (BCWD/2024-25/IND0107) Dated : 24-07-2024, Tenders till can Submit Date : 23-08-2024 @ 5.00 p.m.

For more Information E-Procurement **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) (BCWD/2024-25/IND0107)** Information can be obtained through or Contact **District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bengaluru Rural District Can be contacted during Office hours.**

Sd/- District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Bengaluru Rural District.

DIPR/Bangalore Rural/1175/Manipal/2024-25

LOKNITI-CSDS

The civil services dream: how Delhi maintains a pull on UPSC aspirants

UPSC preparation is often long and difficult. Students prepare and take exams multiple times due to limited seats and high numbers of applicants. Delhi is a popular hub for UPSC preparation because of its prestigious coaching facilities and highly competitive atmosphere

Sanjay Kumar
Sandeep Shastri
Jyoti Mishra

On July 27, three students died in a flooded basement, which was being used as a library by Rau's IAS Study Circle. Due to heavy rains, the basement of the building got filled with water, and many students who were in the library were trapped inside. This incident led to massive protests and strong public outrage. It drew attention to how building rules and safety measures in Delhi's coaching centres are flouted and ignored. Delhi, being a hub for UPSC coaching institutes, attracts and motivates many aspirants to prepare for the civil services. A study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS among 1,003 UPSC aspirants in Delhi just a week before this mishap indicates that the city's renowned coaching institutes and its competitive environment attracts students from all over the country to fulfil their dreams in the bustling capital. We summarise the reasons for the pull Delhi holds and the sometimes dreamy but often gory implications.

Built on hope and dreams

While aspirants' commitment and persistence are more than evident, they also need strong support networks and safer surroundings to guarantee their well-being

Table 1: Reasons for taking coaching classes in Delhi

	%
Reputation of Delhi's coaching institutes	58
To get exposure to the competitive environment	14
Friends, teachers or family recommended it to me	11
I reviewed the success rates	4
Other reasons	13

Question asked: *What was the main reason you started taking coaching classes in Delhi?*

Table 2: The geographical pool of UPSC aspirants in Delhi

	%
Uttar Pradesh	24
Bihar	12
Haryana	7
Rajasthan	7
Madhya Pradesh	6
Maharashtra	4
Other States	16
From Delhi	24

Question asked: *Which State are you from?*

Table 3: The current living arrangements of UPSC aspirants in Delhi

	%
Living with family	33
Living with friends	22
Living alone	45

Question asked: *With whom do you live with in your current place of residence in Delhi?*

Table 4: The frequency with which aspirants meet their parents

Frequency of meeting parents	%
Once a month	12
Once every 3 months	30
Once every 6 months	27
Once a year	15
I haven't met them since I came to Delhi	9

Note: Those who live with their parents are set as missing. Rest either did not respond or gave other responses.

Question asked: *How often do you meet your parents in a year?*

PTI

Table 5: Attempts and success rate

Numbers of attempts	%
First attempt	58
Second attempt	20
Third attempt	12
More than three attempts	10
Success rate at different stages of exam	
Cleared prelims	11
Cleared mains	2
Cleared interview	<1

Question asked: *How many times have you appeared for the civil service exam?*

Table 6: The reason behind choosing civil services

	%
Want to serve the nation	26
Career stability and security	17
Interest in this job	15
Prestige and respect	14
Family tradition	10
Good salary	7
Any other	10

Question asked: *What is the main motivation for choosing this field?*

Method Note: The findings presented here are from a recent study conducted by Lokniti-CSDS with a sample size of 1,003 students preparing for UPSC in Delhi. The survey was carried out at three locations—Old Rajendra Nagar, Mukherjee Nagar, and Karol Bagh—between the second and third weeks of July 2024. The research team included Rishikesh, Deepa T, Tarini Sharma, Yashodhara Ranjana, Ganesh R. Kulkarni, Shuchita Singh, Vrinda Deshmukh, Kairavi, Naman Jaju, Samyak, Divyansh, and Vithi. The survey was conducted face-to-face using a structured questionnaire, with each interview lasting 15-20 minutes. A similar study conducted in Kota had its findings published in *The Hindu* in a three-part series on November 6, 9, and 11, 2023.

Why Delhi?

Delhi has a well-established reputation as being the hub for UPSC coaching, and this was the main attraction for close to six of every 10 (58%) surveyed students who came to Delhi for coaching. This is not merely a perception – some of the most prestigious coaching institutes are based in Delhi. These include Chanakya IAS Academy, Rau's IAS Study Circle, and Vajiram and Ravi, to name a few. With their reputation and acclaimed facilities, such as a well-trained and experienced faculty, enriched study materials, and a systematic approach to preparing students, these institutes instil confidence in the students to succeed.

Additionally, the competitive atmosphere in Delhi gives students the right ambience to prepare for the examinations with all seriousness. It is motivating to be surrounded by thousands of like-minded, ambitious, and focused people who share similar goals and aspirations. In the study, one seventh (14%) of the students stated that they came to Delhi because they wanted to be in the city's competitive environment for UPSC preparation. However, one in every 10 (11%) came to Delhi for preparation on the recommendation of friends, family, or teachers. Only a few based their choice on the coaching centres (Table 1).

Delhi coaching centres attract students not only from Delhi but also from other States like Uttar Pradesh (24%), Bihar (12%), Haryana (7%), and Rajasthan (7%). States like Madhya Pradesh (6%) and Maharashtra (4%) too account for a small but significant chunk of students (Table 2). Examining the residential backgrounds of these candidates, it was discovered that, in addition to the students from cities (50%), there are also students from small towns (25%) and villages (25%) who come to Delhi to prepare for UPSC. This indicates that civil services and the idea of training in Delhi are widely popular throughout various geographical areas.

Away from home

One of the significant challenges for these aspirants is living away from their families. While one in three surveyed aspirants stay with family (parents or siblings), nearly two in five (22%) live with their friends.

A large proportion of aspirants, close to a half (45%), live alone (Table 3). This physical isolation often leads to homesickness, with varying degrees of frequency. Three in five (60%) aspirants coming from other States, feel homesick often or sometimes, compared to one in five who never feel homesick. To cope with this, students frequently meet their parents. While one in 10 (12%) meet their parents once a month, others do so less frequently. Three in 10 stated that they meet their parents quarterly, and nearly a similar proportion (27%) meet their parents only twice a year. A notable portion (9%) had not met their parents since coming to Delhi (Table 4).

Living alone in an unknown city without the immediate support of family can increase feelings of stress and anxiety. However, the demanding nature of UPSC preparation makes it necessary to give more time to study than to recreational or leisure activities.

Staunch dedication

A UPSC aspirant's journey is often long and difficult. Students prepare and take exams multiple times due to limited seats and high numbers of applicants. For nearly three in five (58%) aspirants from the study, it is their first attempt, while one in five (20%) students are trying for the second time. The success rates are daunting, with a small percentage clearing the prelims, even fewer the mains, and a minuscule number, the interview (Table 5).

The motivations for opting for civil services are varied among aspirants. Serving the nation is the primary motivation for many aspirants, as stated by 26% of the students. Career stability and security are also important motivations for pursuing civil services, with 17% of the surveyed aspirants motivated by this factor. Other factors, such as personal interest (15%) and the prestige and respect (14%) associated with these jobs, have also motivated the youth towards civil services. Notably, one in 10 (10%) wanted to carry forward their family tradition as their family members were employed in government jobs. Although a good salary is typically the primary motivation for getting any kind of job, only 7% say they want to get into administrative services due to the good salary (Table 6).

Cracking the UPSC exam is seen as a milestone in an aspirant's life as it confers respect in society and improves their standard of living. Past studies by the CSDS- Lokniti have also indicated the strong preference for government jobs (Youth Studies 2016, 2022, 2023). The pursuit of civil services is also significantly influenced by factors such as career stability and security. In India, government employment is renowned for its retirement benefits, attractive perks, and job security. A reliable job is greatly desired in a nation where unemployment and economic instability are pervasive.

Delhi is a popular hub for UPSC preparation because of its prestigious coaching facilities and highly competitive atmosphere. The youth put in a lot of effort to pass the UPSC exam despite the challenges of living away from home and the psychological costs of homesickness. However, the recent incident at Rau's IAS Study Circle highlights how crucial it is to address infrastructure requirements and safety regulations in coaching centres. It emphasises the need for stronger support networks and safer surroundings to guarantee their well-being.

Sanjay Kumar is professor and co-director Lokniti-CSDS, Sandeep Shastri is Director-Academics, NITTE Education Trust and the national coordinator of the Lokniti Network and Jyoti Mishra is researcher at Lokniti-CSDS.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on all things Swiss on Switzerland's National Day that is observed on August 1

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What term is used for the 26 member states of the Swiss Confederation?

QUESTION 2
Which famous line also attributed to the protagonists in Alexander Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* is considered Switzerland's un-official motto?

QUESTION 3
The Swiss Flag is one of the two National Flags that is square in shape. Name the other State.

QUESTION 4
Of the four official languages of Switzerland, three are German, French, and Italian. Name the fourth.

QUESTION 5
If Indian postage stamps have 'Bharat' written on them, what traditional name of Switzerland is mentioned on its postage stamps?

QUESTION 6
Switzerland hosts the headquarters of many international institutions. So, in which cities are the HQ of the International Olympic Committee and World Health Organisation?

QUESTION 7
Name the festival held in Interlaken, once in 12 years, which features competitions of stone throwing, wrestling, and yodelling.

Visual question:
Name this Swiss humanitarian whose work earned him the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Rowling gave this fictional character her own birth date of July 31. **Ans: Harry Potter**
2. After the success of the Harry Potter series, she wrote this novel for adults. **Ans: *Casual Vacancy***
3. This literary creation in the Harry Potter series is about Rowling's mother's death. **Ans: The Mirror of Erised**
4. This play written by Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany premiered in 2016. **Ans: Harry Potter and the Cursed Child**
5. This English novelist is described by Rowling as her "favourite author of all time". **Ans: Jane Austen**
Visual: The relationship between this author and Rowling. **Ans: Rowling wrote a series of crime fiction novels called *Cormoran Strike*, under the pseudonym Robert Galbraith.**
Early Birds: Archisha Prachi| Seema Das| Bharath Viswanathan| Debarati Kar| Abhijith Nayak

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Perfunctorily (A. C. Sunil Shekar, Shimoga)."

"There are days when you see your neighbour and you don't feel like greeting him. But force of habit makes you give him a quick smile, an artificial one. This kind of action, which is done as a sort of duty and without any enthusiasm, is called 'perfunctory.' It is a formal word and is defined as an action 'done as a duty or routine, without care or interest.'

He saluted his Manager perfunctorily.

The Customs Officer examined our luggage perfunctorily.

The first 'r' is silent. The 'per' sounds like the 'per' in the word 'permission,' 'func' rhymes with 'skunk,' 'bunk,' 'tori' is pronounced like the 'tary' in 'voluntary.' The final 'ly' is pronounced like the 'ly' in 'hotly,' 'costly.' The stress is on the second syllable of the word."

" Collage (T. Kaushik, Madras)."

"A collage is a 'picture made by sticking various materials or objects onto a surface.' The materials that are used for making the picture can be anything – paper, cloth, wood, metal, etc.

Amrit made a beautiful collage using matchsticks and paper napkins.

The word now has taken on a wider meaning. It can refer to anything that is made by bringing together a number of very different things.

Usha's paper is a collage of interesting ideas.

The 'c' in the word is pronounced 'k;' the 'o' is pronounced like the 'o' in 'hot,' the 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'path;' 'age' is pronounced like the 'z' in 'measure,' 'pleasure.' The stress is on the first syllable. In American English, the 'o' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India.' The stress is on the second syllable."

"Fogy (K. K. Nambiar, Thalasserry)."

"A fogy is 'a person with old-fashioned ideas which he is unwilling to change.'

Politicians think he is an old fogy because he has principles!

The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'home', 'bone;' the 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'give,' the 'y' is pronounced 'i' as in 'ink.' The stress is on the first syllable. The word is also spelt fogey.' The plural of the word is fogies or fogys. Please note that 'foggy' is a different word. It is not in any way related to 'fogey'.

"Robust (Anita Kohll, Chandigarh)."

" 'Robust' means 'strong and sturdy, vigorous.'

He is a robust young man.

It also means 'suited to or requiring physical strength or stamina.'

It involves robust work. You can't do it.

It also means 'not refined, coarse, boisterous.'

He has a robust sense of humour.

There is no subtlety in it. The word 'robust' is from Latin 'robur' oak, strength. When you 'corroborate' a statement, you give strength to it, the strength of an oak. The word 'robur' is in the word 'corroborate.' The 'o' in the word is pronounced like the 'o' in 'bone' and the 'u' like the 'u' in 'must'. The stress is on the second syllable.

Published in The Hindu on November 3, 1992.

Word of the day

Debris:
the remains of something that has been destroyed or broken up; loose material (stone fragments and silt etc.) that is worn away from rocks

Synonyms: junk, detritus, dust, rubble

Usage: *The victims were hit by debris from shattered windows.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/debrispro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈdɛbɹi/, /ˈdeɪbɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Metro commuters continue to grapple with crowded trains, infrequent service

BMRCL officials say additional trains may be introduced on Purple and Green lines only by June 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Metro has witnessed a significant surge in daily ridership. However, commuters, especially on the Purple Line, continue to face challenges of crowded trains and infrequent service.

In June, the network recorded its highest-ever average daily ridership of 7,45,659 passengers, bringing in a revenue of ₹58.23 crore. The previous record was set in May (7,18,170 passengers).

The Purple Line is a 43-km stretch connecting Challaghatta in the west to Kadugodi (Whitefield) in the east. Overcrowding of coaches has led to failure of doors to close and occasional altercations among passengers. A recent video captured a fight between two passengers, sparked by one of them pushing the other in an crowded coach.

Namma Metro recorded its highest-ever average daily ridership of 7,45,659 passengers in June 2024. FILE PHOTO

Ravi Kumar, a daily commuter, said travel on the Purple Line during peak hours is "a nightmare". "The trains are so crowded that it's difficult to even breathe, let alone find a seat. The frequency of trains needs to be increased urgently to handle the increasing number of passengers," he said.

> Travel on the Purple Line during peak hours is a nightmare.
>
> **RAVI KUMAR,** a daily commuter

Another passenger, Anupama Rao, from Kengeri, highlighted the impact of employees being asked to work from office. "This has resulted in many trains on the Purple Line becoming even more crowded. The current frequency of services is not enough to manage the surge in the number of commuters. BMRCL has to take necessary steps," she said.

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) officials said additional trains may be introduced on the Purple and Green lines, but not before June 2025.

"There is a delay in delivery of new coaches from the Chinese company CRRC Nanjing Puzhen Company Ltd., which secured a ₹1,578-crore contract in 2019 to supply 216 coaches. The delay is because the company did not establish a manufacturing plant in India, as required," an official said.

To expedite the production and supply of coaches, the company entered into a partnership with Titagarh Rail Systems, a Kolkata-based firm. These coaches are being manufactured at Titagarh rail's facility at Uttarpara, near Kolkata.

"Despite these setbacks, progress is being made," said the official. "The prototype driverless train for the Purple and Green lines is set to be dispatched from China in August and is expected to arrive in Bengaluru by the end of September. The BMRCL plans to use this prototype to complete all necessary tests by February 2025," the official added.

Officials confirmed that 21 DTG trains will be added to the network in 2025. These trains will be supplied by Titagarh Rail after delivering 14 driverless trains for the Yellow Line, which runs from R.V. Road to Bommasandra.

From Page One

Police recover ₹1.4 cr. robbed from couple

"Out of over 600 cases registered in the east CEN police station so far this year, 45% are related to investment rackets. The CEN police team was also trained in previous cases and it has managed to crack 45 such cases this year and recover the maximum amount of money possible. The recovered money was handed over to the complainants after obtaining the court's permission," Mr. Umesh Kumar said.

Gehlot gives notice to CM

In Bengaluru, Mr. Kharge said in many States, including West Bengal, the Governor's office had been "misused" by the Centre for serving its political ends.

The Supreme Court on many occasions had also interpreted the Governor's role. "On what grounds can the Governor sanction prosecution" against the Chief Minister, Mr Kharge asked.

In the past, there have been no instances of the Governor seeking clarifications from the Chief Minister without documents. Generally, the Governor took action based on documents, Mr. Kharge said.

In Hassan, Mr. Byre Gowda alleged that attempts were being made to destabilise the State government using Raj Bhavan.

Very heavy rainfall warning issued for five districts in State today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Meteorological Centre, Bengaluru, has issued a very heavy rainfall warning for Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga, and Chikkamagaluru districts for Thursday.

On Wednesday, Hassan Deputy Commissioner issued a release asking travellers on the Bengaluru-Mangaluru highway to take alternative routes due to landslips at Doddathappale village in Heggade Gram Panchayat limits near Sakleshpur.

Two container trucks and one tanker truck were trapped in the mud following the landslips. The fresh landslips come at a time when the authorities had cleared the Tuesday's landslip debris and allowed vehicular movement on Wednesday morning.

Fresh landslips partially buried trucks at Doddathappale village on NH 75 near Sakleshpur on Wednesday. The movement of vehicles on the road was disrupted. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IMD warning

As per the IMD warning, which will be valid from 8.30 a.m. on Thursday to 8.30 a.m. on Friday, the five districts are likely to see very heavy rainfall.

"Scattered heavy to very heavy rain and sustained wind speed (30-40 kmph) very likely to occur over Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, and Uttara Kannada districts. Isolated heavy to very heavy rain and sustained wind speed (30-40 kmph) is very likely to occur over Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts. Isolated heavy rain and sustained wind speed (30-40 kmph) is very likely to occur over Belagavi and Kodagu districts," states the forecast for Thursday.

The forecast adds that light to moderate rain and sustained wind speed (30-40 kmph) are very likely to occur at many places over the remaining districts of South Interior Karnataka and at a few places over the remaining districts of North Interior Karnataka.

For Friday, heavy rainfall warning has been issued for Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, and Shivamogga districts and heavy rainfall warning has been issued for Chikkamagaluru and Belagavi districts.

Reprieve in Kodagu

On Wednesday, there was a temporary reprieve from rain in Kodagu, but the district administration continues to be on alert with rescue teams deployed at places vulnerable to floods and inundation.

The outflow from the Krishnaraja Sagar, which had increased to 1.5 lakh cusecs on Tuesday night, was reduced to 1.07 lakh cusecs by Wednesday morning. But a late evening alert said that the discharge from the KRS had been increased to 1.7 lakh cusecs. Similar was the situation in coastal Karnataka districts, which saw rain fury subsiding on Wednesday.

Tree-fall incidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As rain lashed the city on Wednesday evening, people travelling back home from offices faced inconvenience, even as several roads witnessed flooding.

Tree-fall incidents were reported in at least three areas. On Ali Askar Road, a tree fell on a parked autorickshaw. A tree fell on a car near the City Police Commissioner' office. However, there was no casualty reported.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike dispatched teams to cut the trees. A source in the BBMP said many incidents of tree branches falling were reported.

'With 70 schools, Bengaluru becoming a hub for international schools'

India has one of the largest number of international schools in the world and we expect to see a year-on-year growth of 10% to 15%, says chairperson of TAISI

INTERVIEW

Syed Sultan Ahmed

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Syed Sultan Ahmed

From the exponential growth of international schools in Bengaluru to the affordability factor and the question of teaching about the local culture language, Syed Sultan Ahmed, who took over as chairperson of The Association of International Schools of India (TAISI) on Wednesday, spoke to *The Hindu* about the present and future of international schools.

How many international schools are there in India currently?

The number of international schools has gone up considerably in the last 10 years. A decade ago, there were hardly 250 schools, but now there are around 150 International Baccalaureate (IB) schools and 600 schools which follow the Cambridge syllabus. While there were less than a lakh students in international schools 10 years ago, now there are about four lakh to five lakh students. Bengaluru is now becoming a hub of international schools. Apart from Delhi, Bengaluru is among the leading cities in the country with 70 international schools.

What has contributed to this growth of international schools?

Traditionally, it was the children of diplomats who used to go to international schools. Then in the last decade, a big shift was seen in the trend as middle- and upper middle-class families started sending their children abroad for university and hence wanted their children to study international curriculum. Even if they are not sending them abroad, middle-class parents who wanted well-rounded development of their children started preferring international curriculum instead of CBSE or State curriculums.

What are the major differences between State or CBSE curriculums and international curriculums?

International schools moved on from traditional methods of information and testing to experiential learning. There is a lot more focus on understanding concepts and delving deep into one particular topic and lots of projects and less testing of memory. While the National Education Policy talks about such methods in policy, we are still struggling to get a teacher into the classroom and debating what history to study and such issues have not allowed our regular schools to move on.

International schools are not very affordable...

It is a general perception (that it is expensive), but there are a lot of schools in Bengaluru where Cambridge curriculum can be studied for ₹1 lakh to ₹1.5 lakh per annum. This fee is similar to average higher education ICSE and CBSE schools. Of course, for the top schools, parents would have to pay around ₹1.5 lakh to ₹2 lakh a month simply because of the facilities and the teaching staff they provide.

What is the future of international schools in India?

With India having one of the largest number of international schools in the world, we expect to see a year-on-year growth of 10% to 15% which would translate to 70 to 100 new schools every year. While it is unlikely that CBSE or ICSE schools will move completely towards experiential learning in the next three to five years, demand is increasing for international schools.

Even smaller cities and towns have started international schools, and I expect to see the heartland getting more international schools.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, AUG. 01	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:46
RISE 02:57	SET 16:24
FRIDAY, AUG. 02	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:46
RISE 03:55	SET 17:19
SATURDAY, AUG. 03	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:46
RISE 04:52	SET 18:09

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	27	24
Mysuru	28	20
Bengaluru	27	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Chaces of light rain and thundershower.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Day will be comfortable with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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822 tonnes of mango exported to 60 international destinations from KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has shipped 822 tonnes of mango in 2024, marking a 20% year-on-year growth.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd. (BIAL) said that last year 685 tonnes of mango were exported. It said that this season a total of 27 lakh pieces were exported to 60 international destinations.

"This milestone represents a 59% rise in volume compared with the previous season, showcasing both the increasing demand for Indian mangoes in overseas markets and the airport's operational efficiency in handling perishable exports," it said.

The airport operator said that this season, mango exports to U.S. destinations surged, with airports such as Washington Dulles, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Francisco emerging as the top destinations for Indian mango shipments.

Bangalore International Airport Ltd. said that this season a total of 27 lakh pieces of mango were exported to 60 international destinations.

"With an extensive export network of over 60 international destinations, including prominent airports like Chicago, Seattle, Dubai, London, and Houston, the KIA continues to pave the way for Indian agricultural products to reach global markets seamlessly and efficiently," the operator said.

Satyaki Raghunath, chief operating officer, BIAL, said, "The KIA's technologically advanced cold storage facility WFS BLR Coolport plays a crucial role in preserving the quality of the perishable produce throughout the supply chain. This achievement of substantially increasing our mango exports year-on-year reaffirms our position as a premier gateway that meets the growing demand for Indian mangoes, particularly two key international destinations."

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ, ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ମଣ୍ଡଳ, ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel/FAX:- 0680-2404287)
At:-Ambapua, Po:-Engineering School Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011

NOTICE
FOR PM-JANMAN UNDER PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH "e"- Procurement
Bid identification No. Online Tender/07-2024-25/PMGSY/BPR

The Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads / Bridges under **PRADHAN MANTRI-JANJATI ADIVASI NYAYA MAHA ABHIYAN (PM-JANMAN Batch-I & II/2023-24)** under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in the districts of **Ganjam for 03 (Three)** number of packages with estimated cost totalling to ***Rs 10.64 Cr*** **(Approximate)** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement : Dtd.***03.08.2024***

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Berhampur // Superintending Engineer of the Concerned divisions on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand,** failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement : 17.08.2024 upto 5.30 P.M For further details and corrigendum (if any) please log on to www.pmgsytenders.gov.in.

Chief Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-155 :
OIPR-25071/11/0010/2425

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MUDA 'scam': A livid HDK withdraws JD(S) support for BJP's padayatra

The Union Minister's remark has exposed chinks in the NDA over this issue; he says it's not the right time for the foot march

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In what has exposed cracks in the alliance between the BJP and the Janata Dal (Secular) over the handling of the alleged irregularities in the distribution of sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's family by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday announced that the JD(S) would pull out of the planned Bengaluru-Mysuru padayatra of the BJP and questioned the need for it now.

The Union Minister, who attended a coordination meeting on Sunday over the issue, said on Wednesday: "We have withdrawn from padayatra since we feel it is not the right time to undertake it. However, the BJP is making preparations to go ahead with it."

The JD(S) core committee, which met on Tuesday, had said that the time was not right for the padayatra given the rain situation, and that it could be taken up after sometime.

Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy addressing the media in New Delhi on Wednesday.

No moral support

"We will not even give moral support to the padayatra. The issue can be fought legally. If we undertake the padayatra now, people may question us," Mr. Kumaraswamy said.

This has exposed the differences between the NDA partners over handling the issue of alleged irregularities in allotment of MUDA sites to the wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, in lieu of land taken from her to create a layout by the authority.

Mr. Kumaraswamy futher questioned, "Why should we extend support to the padayatra if the BJP leaders are not taking us into confidence? The padayatra passes through our stronghold... We will be together during elections. However, what will we achieve with this kind of programme?"

The core committee of the JD (S) had expressed reservations about supporting the padayatra in the light of rains, sowing season, lack of preparation, inability of Mr. Kumaraswamy to participate in the padayatra and the perceived "internal rift" within the BJP over the programme.

The padayatra was planned for launch on August 3 after the BJP and JD (S) were denied permission to raise the issue in both Houses of the legislature during the recently-concluded monsoon session.

The JD (S) has been cagey about going ahead with an "ill-planned" padayatra that could reflect badly on its popularity in the Vokkaliga-dominated Ramanagara, Mandya, and Mysuru districts where it is facing a challenge from KPCC president and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, sources said.

What led to the outburst

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular) sources said that the party was upset that the BJP leaders went ahead with the programme timing despite being informed about the non-availability of H.D. Kumaraswamy till the Parliament session was over.

"Party leaders did not want to take part without Mr. Kumaraswamy. Even after the JD(S) core committee made its decision to seek postponement, it was not considered," said a leader. Party sources said that the BJP leaders should have been "sensitive" and not brought in Preetham Gowda to the meeting on Sunday.

They pointed out that Mr. Kumaraswamy's family has been upset over the alleged role of Mr. Gowda in the Hassan pendrive case. "The Bengaluru-Mysuru highway passes through the JD(S) turf. The publicity material did not mention the JD(S) leaders or the symbol whereas we follow the alliance dharma by including BJP leaders in publicity material," said the leader.

Hassan ex-MLA targeted

Mr. Kumaraswamy particularly targeted former BJP legislator of Hassan, Preetham Gowda, who has been given a key role in the padayatra.

The Union Minister accused Mr. Gowda of being the "kingpin in the distribution of pen drives" that contained clips of the alleged sexual abuse by former JD(S) MP for Hassan and his nephew Prajwal Revanna. The alleged sex scandal led to the arrest of Mr. Prajwal Revanna.

"Preetham Gowda is the man who tried to destroy the family of (former Prime Minister) H.D. Deve Gowda," Mr. Kumaraswamy said, holding him responsible for the distribution of pen drives "on the streets of Hassan".

BJP leaders intervene to pacify HDK as party is left red-faced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP State leaders have been left red-faced in the wake of their coalition partner and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy firing a salvo at them and publicly seeking to disassociate himself from the proposed padayatra from Bengaluru to Mysuru on August 3.

Though the padayatra was planned to build further pressure on Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to quit in the wake of alleged irregularities allotment of MUDA sites to his family, it may not only lose steam, but also reflect poorly on the Opposition's unity if the Janata Dal (S), which has a strong political influence on the padayatra route, keeps away.

Compelled to continue

However, the BJP is left with no option but to continue with the padayatra as cancelling it may further affect its image.

Hence, the party's Central leaders are learnt to have intervened and are trying to convince Mr. Kumaraswamy to reconsider his decision.

Sources said both Mr. Kumaraswamy and the BJP Central leaders are keen to ensure that the developments do not affect the political alliance between them. In this context, Mr. Kumaraswamy is expected to announce his final stand on the padayatra after discussing it with his father H.D. Deve Gowda.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said Mr. Kumaraswamy was expected to announce his final stand on the padayatra after discussing it with his father H.D. Deve Gowda.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok told media persons that the BJP will convince Mr. Kumaraswamy about the need to take out the padayatra now. "We have informed the BJP high command about the developments and will abide by its directions," he said.

Dissidence in the BJP

Incidentally, Mr. Kumaraswamy's allegations that the JD(S) was not fully involved at the stage of conceptualisation of the padayatra by the BJP State leadership has added to the undercurrent of dissidence in the BJP as some of the senior leaders maintain that they too were not consulted.

The BJP is left with no option but to continue with the padayatra as cancelling it may further affect its image

"The padayatra was not discussed at the party's State core committee and we were not consulted at the conceptual stage," alleged a senior BJP leader, pointing an accusing finger at party State president B.Y. Vijayendra.

BJP's disgruntled leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal has alleged that the padayatra is part of a "pact between Mr. Vijayendra and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar" to unseat Mr. Siddaramaiah.

Meeting with Shah

Meanwhile Mr. Vijayendra met BJP's key strategist and Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi on Wednesday soon after Mr. Kumaraswamy's outbursts.

After the meeting, Mr. Vijayendra posted on X saying that he met Mr. Shah to brief him about the alleged scams in Karnataka involving the Congress government.

Claiming that Mr. Shah had praised the manner in which the party State unit had handled them, he said the meeting with the leader had given him a lot of enthusiasm.

Free CET, NEET online coaching for govt. PU college students from April 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the Budget announcement, the Karnataka government has decided to implement free coaching for CET, NEET, and other entrance tests for II PU science stream students of government PU colleges from April 2025.

The online coaching programme will be restricted to 25,000 students and the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) will conduct an entrance test to select the beneficiaries.

Speaking at a press conference here on Wednesday, Minister of School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said: "From the current academic year, we will implement free coaching for various competitive examinations, including NEET and CET, at the college level. The coaching will start after the completion of II PU examinations in 2025." "The training will be completely online and implemented through a private agency. The total budget for the programme is ₹12.5 crore," he added.

Meanwhile, to encourage science education in schools, the department is introducing the "Maru Sinchana" programme in 93 aspirational taluks where special science teaching will be provided.

In the interest of the future of students who failed class 10 and II PU examinations, the government has decided to allow them to continue their studies by re-enrolling in the same class in high schools and PU colleges of the State, Mr. Bangarappa said. "Uniform, textbooks, shoes and socks, and midday meals will be extended to the students without any discrimination. They will be given special care in class," he added.

Mr. Bangarappa also said that the department is soon introducing a Face Recognition Technology for attendance, which will be linked to the Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS). This initiative will be launched soon on a trial basis, he added.

Burden of schoolbags to be reduced

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government is planning to reduce the burden of schoolbags by reducing the number of notebooks. The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) plans to introduce a single notebook for multiple subjects or note sheets instead of books. Earlier, the government cut 50% of textbooks for students of classes 1 to 10 from the academic year 2024-25 to reduce bag burden. Instead of providing textbooks once for the entire year, it adopted two books per year, divided into two parts (Summative Assessment) SA-1 and SA-2.

"Samples will be released in another two or three months. We have also mandated the celebration of 'No Bag day' every third Saturday," Minister of School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa said.

DSEL officials said the idea is to distribute sheets to students to write notes at schools and ask them to put it in a folder after going home.

Karnataka to triple the size of its BioEconomy to $100 bn by 2030

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has an ambitious mandate to more than triple the size of its BioEconomy to $100 billion by 2030, from $31 billion in 2023, growing 10.7% from $28 billion in the previous year.

BioEconomy currently contributes 10%-12% of Karnataka's Economy of $310 billion. The state, being the leader in biotech, attracted over 30% of national biotech investments in 2023, contributing 21% to India's BioEconomy.

According to the Karnataka BioEconomy Report 2024 unveiled here on Wednesday, the State will focus on growing BioPharma contributions to $30 billion, expanding BioAgri to $15 billion, and quadrupling BioIndustrial contributions to $30 billion to achieve its $100 billion target in the next six years.

BioEconomy currently contributes 10%-12% of the State's economy of $310 billion

Releasing the report, Minister Priyank Kharge said: "Karnataka's BioEconomy has experienced extraordinary growth, driven in large part by the innovative and entrepreneurial spirit of our start-ups. Their contribution has been significant in shaping the future of our State's BioEconomy and we are proud to support and nurture their efforts."

On the biotech landscape, the report said, the state already has over 1,000 biotech start-ups, in addition, it has been witnessing a surge of 17 biotech start-ups incorporating every month, totalling 202 new biotech ventures in 2023 alone. Most start-ups focused on Bt cotton, biofuels, and pharma came from Ballari, Belagavi, and Mysuru. The study also found that the 'Beyond Bengaluru' region has been significantly contributing to the BioEconomy. For instance, Mysuru district had a share of 9.04%, while Belagavi, Dakshina Kannada, and Bengaluru Rural made a contribution of over 4% each to the total BioEconomy of the State.

The report further said Karnataka was home to CRO and CDMO companies like Aurigene Services, Aragen, Eurofins Advinus, Jubilant Biosys, Kemwell Biopharma, Laurus Bio, and Syngene International. These companies played a significant role in the bioeconomy, with large enterprises generating $50-100 million per quarter and medium-sized organisations contributing $15-25 million per quarter. The total BioEconomy from the BioIndustrial Segment for 2023 was estimated at $5.1 billion.

IN-SPACe issues Announcement of Opportunity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has released an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) for making available Indian Orbital Resources to the non-government entities.

Through this AO, Indian ITU Filing at 89E, which is in coordination stage, will be made available to one selected applicant.

"The Announcement of Opportunity is a game-changing opportunity for NGEs to participate in the global space economy and establish a world-class communication satellite system," said Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe.

Shivakumar appeals to Modi for more funds for irrigation projects, Bengaluru's development

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and submitted a proposal seeking more funds for irrigation projects and for the development of Bengaluru.

Speaking to reporters at the Karnataka Bhavan in New Delhi after a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Shivakumar said: "We had appealed for a GIFT city-like space in Bengaluru. Since that request was not considered positively, we have sought more funds for tunnel project, signal-free corridor, development of main roads and storm water drains in Bengaluru city, as well as funds for irrigation projects." Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) city is a central business district under construction in Gujarat.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at New Delhi on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He pointed out that Bengaluru contributes the second highest amount of tax to the national exchequer, but the city got nothing in the Union Budget for 2024-25. "During the UPA regime, the State had got funds for the construction of flyovers at Electronics City, Hebbal, and Nelamangala under JNNURM," he said.

"Mr. Modi said only one GIFT city can be set up in the country. Hence, we have requested for Central assistance in many of the mega projects that we are planning to take up in Bengaluru. We have impressed upon the Prime Minister that Bengaluru needs better infrastructure," he said.

Speaking on water projects, Mr. Shivakumar said he had brought up the issue of the Centre not releasing any funds in spite of the previous Budget committing ₹5,300 crore for the Upper Bhadra project. Mr. Modi has promised to take it up in the Cabinet meeting, he said.

"We have also updated the Prime Minister about more water being released to Tamil Nadu in July than specified. We requested him to intervene in the Mahadayi issue, to which he suggested resolving the issue among ourselves. We have, however, submitted a request for Centre's intervention," he said.

Water to T.N.

Mr. Shivakumar said that 2.25 lakh cusecs of water had been released to Tamil Nadu on Tuesday. "This is the highest ever quantity of water released to Tamil Nadu. Currently, 1.75 lakh cusecs of water is flowing to Tamil Nadu. A red alert has been declared in Cauvery basin, people need to be cautious. We have updated the Union Minister for Water Resources about the historic water release to Tamil Nadu," he said.

CM questions Nirmala on SC/ST allocation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said that the Centre and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman have no moral authority to question Karnataka on its Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) when the Union government does not have such an allocation in the Union Budget at all.

"If you care so much about Dalits, implement the SCSP/TSP scheme and allocate 25% of the Union Budget in proportion to the Dalit population," he told Ms. Sitharaman in a statement.

"Our government's Budget for the current year is ₹3,71,383 crore, of which ₹39,121 crore has been allocated for SCSP/TSP schemes. The Union government's budget for the current year is ₹48.21 lakh crore, of which only ₹2,90,401 crore has been allocated for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes," he said.

"For the past 10 years, I have been urging the Centre to implement the SCSP/TSP Act at the national level, just as it is in the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently rejected this demand. It is laughable that those who have ignored this demand are now shedding crocodile tears, claiming the Congress government in Karnataka is being unjust to Dalits," he said in the statement.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

In loving memory of

Lakshmi Venkataraman
1943-2024
Remembered for her generosity, magnetic personality, fearless spirit, passed away peacfully on 26-Jul-2024.
Mobile : +91-9480435165

Mrs. Meena Sankaran (84)
w/o Late K.S.Sankaran
Attained Shivalokaprapthi on 28th July 2024 in Mumbai.
In profound grief :
Subramanian (Shekar) - 9819046987, Venkataraman (Ramji)-9820413996, Rhama, Champa, Siddharth, Dipna, Ganesh

A message of acceptance through music

Rishi Foundation presents a 90-minute concert, Circle of Life, which will feature the Bangalore Choru and Bangalore School of Music

Shilpa Anandraj
BENGALURU

Bindu and Ambi Subramaniam with students of SaPa will perform at the concert. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rishi Foundation, an NGO that works with HIV infected children and teenagers, will present a programme this weekend called 'Circle of Life'. It will be a 90-minute music and dance programme to raise funds for the foundation.

This is the third edition of Circle of Life Concert 2024, with the first in August 2022 in memory of Rishi Shet. The foundation was started by his parents, Anita and Arun Sheth, along with friends and family from Bengaluru.

Anita is an MD, research professor who is currently working as a Professor-Pediatrics and International Health Division (Global Disease Epidemiology and Control) at John's Hopkins University in the States. She is currently in Bengaluru and speaks to *The Hindu* from her residence in Indiranagar about her son, Rishi, Rishi Foundation and Circle of Life.

A file photo of Rishi with his violin. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Rishi spent his holidays with the children of Snehagram.

Anita Shet with children from Snehagram.

Honour through music

"We lost Rishi when he was 17 in an accident in Bengaluru in 2021. He was an athlete too and it was all too sudden for us to process anything. But, the children at the orphanage we worked with reached out to us, saying they wanted to do something and started a programme. Becky (Rebecca Thomas) from Bangalore School Of Music (BSM) and Bangalore Chorus led by a colleague, pediatrician and a dear friend, Maya Mascarenhas came forward too to be a part of our cause," says Anita.

"They too wanted to do something in memory of Rishi, who was a musician himself. The best way, we all felt, was to honour him through music. On August 22, 2022, the month of Rishi's birthday, the first concert was held and we called it 'Circle of Life' as it symbolises how we all have our parts to play and pass on, and others continue to keep the whole energy and goodwill going to help each other."

She then goes back in time and shares how her work with HIV-infected children and orphans started.

"My husband Arun and I were physicians from St. Johns Medical College, Bengaluru. We studied and also worked as a faculty here. Rishi was a musician himself. He learnt Carnatic music while we lived in Bengaluru and Western classical music, when we moved to the U.S. When he was 14 came to Bengaluru during his summer break and had a solo concert in collaboration with BSM, where he had the co-director of BSM, Rebecca Thomas accompany him on the piano. He used the concert to raise funds for the orphanage and child care institution that we were linked with while we lived here. Rishi used his musical talent (violin) to raise funds to give them a second chance in life and also taught them music. "This is what generated the ripple effect and brought people together, bonded by grief to continue his legacy and ensure a more stable world for children".

Circle Of Life, shares Anita, is a bridge to build a bond between our families and the families of these children. "We normally pick a Saturday close to Rishi's birth date for the concert to make it convenient for everyone. YThis year the concert is dominated by music with abit of dance. The concert too is closely linked to the children we are working with and serving," says Anita, who states that they have till date helped hundreds of children and families.

The USP of Circle OF Life this year will see 120 children from Bangalore Chorus on stage with 20 in the orchestra, 12 from SaPa along with one of our young adults, from the orphanage. She has overcome every hurdle in her life and has become a changemaker and is currently doing a diploma at Attakkalari.

She has trained a few children with HIV. We also have a young boy, who has got a scholarship to be a part of the International AIDS society. He has a programme called The Positive Running Programme, which aims at bringing running and physical activities into the lives of children with chronic diseases. He will be performing a story in the form of a dance that talks about the benefits of running."

More awareness

From a doctor's perspective, Anita says: "Years ago we did not know much about HIV. We were terrified of it and believed it was transmissible by a mere touch. That has changed. Today HIV is like any chronic disease. In fact, it is better than conditions like cancer, arthritis or diabetes as HIV is a condition that can be controlled with medication. An infected person can lead a normal, healthy life. I hope people will understand this and not stigmatise those with HIV, but allow them to integrate normally into the society. From our experience we have observed that children get anxious as they grow older to share about their health condition with others as many have lost jobs, or are thrown out on the streets...."

"It is not a ticketed show, but we encourage donations. We have donor passes just to help people register for the show. They do not have to pay, but if they wish to, they can donate any amount."

Circle Of Life will be presented at BIC (Bangalore International Centre) on August 3, 4.30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Donor passes on https://rishifoundation.in/circle-of-life-2024/

TAISI HUB, a gamified teacher training platform launched

(From left) Kuldeep Dagar, Anu Monga, Sana Bhata, Lina Ashar, Mahyar Rahmantalab, and Syed Sultan Ahmed .

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

TAISI is dedicated to advancing the footing of international education in India

"We wish to take the Indian standard of education everywhere in the world," said Syed Sultan Ahmed, who was appointed as the new chairperson of The Association of International Schools of India (TAISI) on Wednesday. He also launched TAISI HUB, a gamified teacher training platform, designed for continuous upskilling and collaboration.

"We wish to empower educators with tech tools and resources to transform international education in India", he said as he stressed on the hub's ability to build an educator's portfolio through exclusive memberships," he said.

He also spoke about the conduction of workshops for non-teaching staff and global partnerships with International Baccalaureate (IB), Cambridge and BETT to infuse international education practices into Indian education.

TAISI vision

Ahmed emphasised on TAISI's vision to "connect, collaborate and create " new educational opportunities in India. He had previously taken an innovative approach to education through pioneering the concept of "film pedagogy" which has won him seven National Film Awards. He also said that he wanted to create a "more inclusive and effective educational environment," in the country.

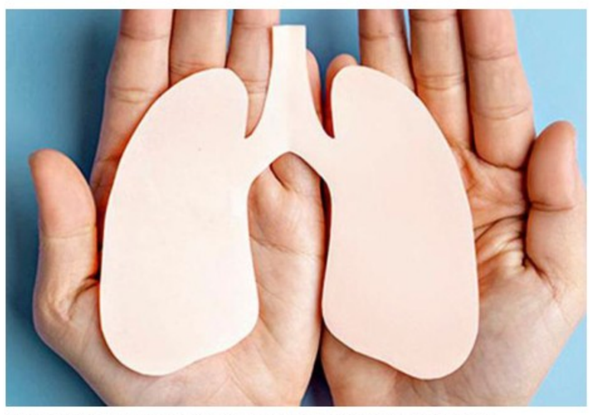
"I am confident that under Syed Ahmed Sultan's dynamic leadership, TAISI will continue to set new benchmarks and create unprecedented opportunities for educators and students", said Anuradha Monga, the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of TAISI from whom Syed took over the baton as the chairperson.

Founded in 2005 TAISI is dedicated to advancing the footing of international education in India. It has built itself to be the largest NGO in India, for international schools to collaborate and learn from each other.

Lung cancer in non-smokers: Exposure to second-hand smoke and air pollution are the main culprits, say doctors

Apart from genetics, several occupations in India expose workers to lung cancer causing agents, such as workers in mining and in construction

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU



For children, exposure to second-hand smoke can lead to respiratory infections. GETTY IMAGES

Last month, when a TV presenter and anchor Aparna Vastarey succumbed to lung cancer in Bengaluru, her death led to concerns about the risk factors of lung cancer that is increasingly affecting non-smokers too.

Doctors, who attribute the rise of lung cancer in non-smokers to second-hand smoke exposure and air pollution, said this as a concerning trend. A recent study done by Indian Council of Medical Research - National Centre for Disease Informatics and Research (ICMR-NCDIR) in Bengaluru, looking at various published studies found a strong link between air pollution and cancer, specifically showing that fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and nitrogen dioxide (NO2) in the air are associated with higher rates of lung cancer and deaths resulting from it.

Microscopic pollutants deeply penetrate the lungs, causing inflammation and damaging lung tissue. Chronic exposure to such pollutants can trigger mutations in lung cells, eventually leading to cancer. This risk is significant even for non-smokers who breathe polluted air daily, doctors pointed out.

Apart from genetics, several occupations in India expose workers to lung cancer causing agents. Workers in mining, construction and certain manufacturing industries are at a heightened risk.

Second-hand smoke

Vinayak Maka, who heads the department of Medical Oncology in Ramaiah Memorial Hospital, said lung cancer in non-smokers is a concerning trend. "Exposure to second-hand smoke remains a significant risk factor, as many non-smokers inhale smoke from their environment, increasing their risk of developing lung cancer," he said.

"Apart from air pollution, occupational exposure to carcinogens such as asbestos, radon, and certain chemicals further elevates the risk for non-smokers. Genetic predisposition is another critical factor; some individuals possess genetic mutations that make them more susceptible to lung cancer despite never having smoked. Additionally, lifestyle factors like diet and physical activity, along with underlying health conditions such as chronic lung diseases, can influence cancer risk," he pointed out.

Niti Raizada, Senior Director - Medical Oncology and Hemato Oncology, Fortis Hospitals, Bengaluru, said the impact of smoke on health is far more extensive than just the act of smoking.

"While it is widely known that lighting up a cigarette is hazardous, many are unaware of the insidious dangers lurking in the smoke that lingers long after the cigarette is extinguished. Understanding the risks associated with first-hand, second-hand, and even third-hand smoke is crucial for grasping the full spectrum of lung cancer threats and safeguarding your health against this deadly disease," she said.

Active smoking

First-hand smoke, or active smoking, involves inhaling smoke directly from cigarettes, cigars, or pipes. This type of smoke is laden with thousands of harmful chemicals, many of which are known carcinogens. The risks associated with first-hand smoke - direct lung damage and significant cancer risk - are well-documented. Beyond cancer, smoking is a major cause of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), heart disease, and stroke, affecting overall health and quality of life, she said.

Stating that the hidden danger lies with exposure to second-hand smoke or passive smoke, Dr Raizada said: "The smoke inhaled by non-smokers from the burning end of a cigarette or from a smoker's exhalation poses serious health risks, even without direct contact."

Children and pregnant women are especially at risk. For children, exposure to second-hand smoke can lead to respiratory infections, asthma, and developmental issues. Pregnant women exposed to second-hand smoke are at higher risk for low birth weight and preterm delivery. Besides, second-hand smoke can linger in the air and settle on surfaces, creating an ongoing health risk in enclosed spaces, she explained.

Third-hand smoke

Third-hand smoke refers to the residual nicotine and other toxic chemicals that remain on indoor surfaces long after smoking has stopped. "Residues from third-hand smoke can cling to walls, furniture, and clothing. Children and pets who come into contact with these contaminated surfaces may ingest or inhale harmful substances, increasing their risk of health problems," the doctor said.

"Besides, third-hand smoke residues can interact with other indoor pollutants, potentially creating additional harmful compounds. This can exacerbate health risks, particularly in environments where smoking has occurred regularly. Even if a person has never smoked or been exposed to second-hand smoke, living in an environment with third-hand smoke contamination can pose health risks, especially over prolonged periods," she explained.

Symptoms, precautions

Symptoms of lung cancer include a cough (often with blood), chest pain, wheezing and weight loss. These symptoms often do not appear until the cancer is advanced. Treatments vary but may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted drug therapy and immunotherapy.

Doctors said the most effective way to reduce lung cancer risk is to avoid smoking and limit exposure to second-hand smoke. Besides, maintaining smoke-free environments and mitigating exposure to residual smoke are essential precautionary steps.

A multifaceted approach is the need of the hour to tackle lung cancer effectively. The general public should be educated about the risk factors, symptoms, and the importance of early detection of lung cancer through intensive public and social media campaigns, doctors added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 1, 1974

A Second Wave of Flood Hits South Kanara

Mangalore, July 31: South Kanara district had a record rainfall of 26 cms. during the last 24 hours ending 8.30 this morning–the highest for a day during the last five years.

The rivers are swollen again, even before the people could recover from the devastation of the floods of last week in all the coastal taluks. Many areas in and around Mangalore are under waist deep water and the level is still rising, causing concern.

The Mysore Divisional Commissioner, Mr. Samuel Appaji, went round the affected areas in Puttur, Bantwal, Mangalore and Udipi taluks during the last two days and conveyed the Government's distress at the floods. He told them of the messages from Mr. M. Y. Ghorpade, State Finance Minister and the Central Minister, Mr. T. A. Pai, who has programmed to visit the district tomorrow.

The State Government has assured every financial assistance for emergency relief work, he added.

No One Cared to Help an Injured Man

Bangalore, July 31: An Assistant Manager employed in the Bharat Electronics here, Mr. Mallikarjuna Rao, was knocked down unconscious from his scooter at Yeshwantpur Road last night. Although a number of passers-by noticed him, no one came to his aid. Mr. Rao died after some time.

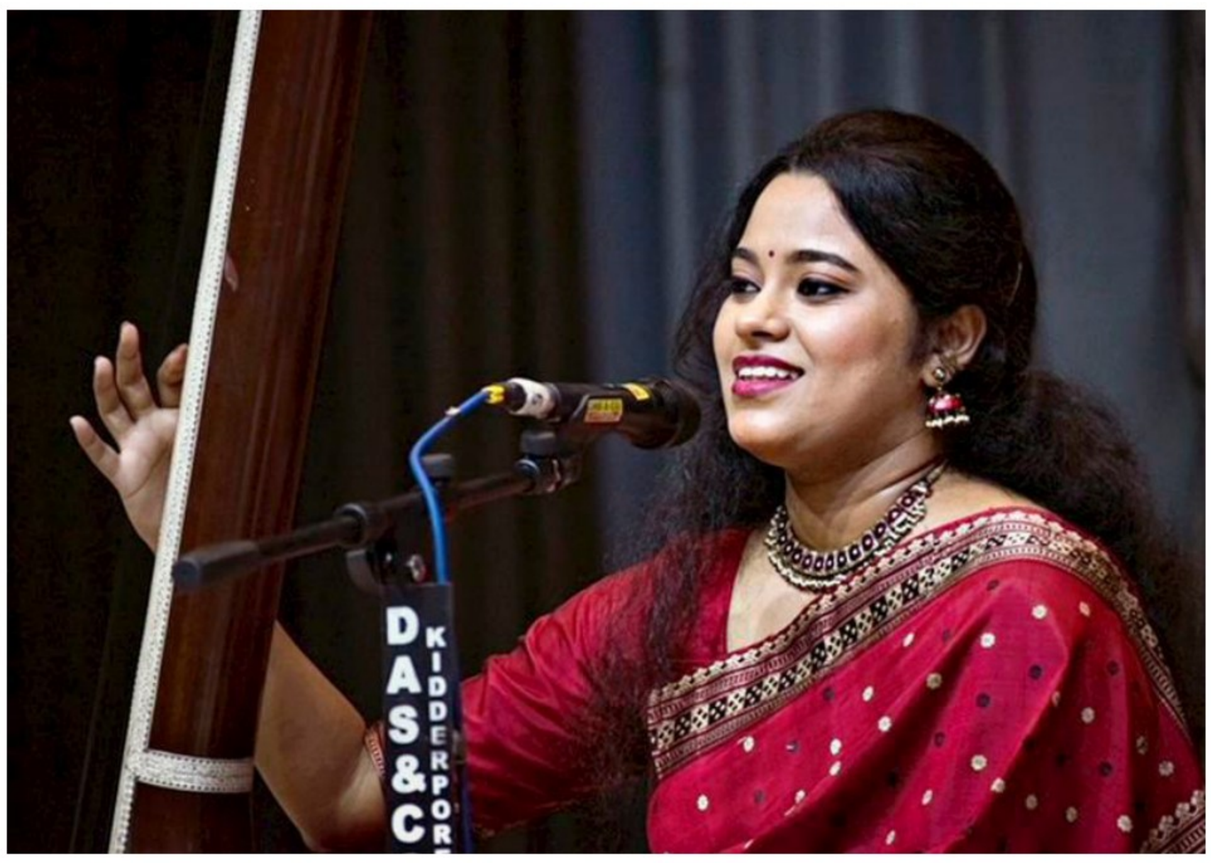
The Commissioner of Police, Mr. M.L. Chandrasekhar appealed to vehicle owners to come to the aid of victims of road accidents, by running them to the hospital or bringing the accident to the notice of the police.

Mr. Chandrasekhar said that motorists were reluctant to come to the victims' aid for fear of interrogation or detention in the police station. Such fears were unfounded and many lives could be saved if citizens co-operated with the police, he said.

Stringed to classical notes

Renowned sitarist Partha Chatterjee will perform in Bengaluru this weekend, as part of Sursagar's Hindustani Raagdhaari Sangeet

Shilpa Anandraj



Passing on the traditional baton Chatterjee (above) and Medha Basu. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sursagar, in association with ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Alliance Francaise and supported by Canara Union, will present Hindustani Raagdhaari Sangeet featuring sitarist Partha Chatterjee and Medha Basu.

"I am coming to present traditional music from the repertoire of Hindustani in its pure classical form, and yet aim to entertain people in Bengaluru," says 74-year-old Partha over phone from his home in Kolkata.

There are so many genres of popular music, like film songs or ghazals, Partha says. "These are easily accessible. Classical music, on the other hand, requires listeners to have knowledge of the genre. It is a tough genre for a musician to get the audience integrated with your thoughts and feelings while on stage. Yet, classical music has its own vitality as it has survived thousands of years and will last for many more thousand of years."

Classical music is the ultimate path for music, Partha says. "It will survive despite the challenges it faces. When I started as an artist, opportunities were way lesser, unlike today where opportunities and concerts are plentiful. Musicians use social media platforms to promote their music."

Partha's journey into music was organic. "Music was in the family. My mother Rama Chatterjee is a singer and a regular artiste on All India Radio and Doordarshan, while my late father, Prabir Kumar Chatterjee, introduced me to the sitar. My father introduced me to my guru, Nikhil Banerjee, post this, Ali Akbar Khan, took me under his tutelage (two stalwards of the senia maihar gharana). I also trained from Buddhadev Dasgupta.

My son, Purbayan, learnt from me and is one of the top sitarist today and now my 15-year-old grandson is my student, hence the tradition passes."

Partha is currently a visiting faculty at the Ali Akbar College of Music and a guru of ITC SRA since 2011. He has performed at prestigious music festivals like Festival of India (Basel, Switzerland), Broadway Theatre (New York) besides working with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India, as a musical ambassador. Before deciding on the sitar, Partha says he took to singing. "I accompanied my mother and played the tabla for her concerts. Unconsciously I imbibed all the *bandishes* and *ragas*. I did not plan on playing the sitar, though my father was a sitar player. One day he brought a sitar into the house and I was enamoured by the instrument."

Kolkata is the hub for instrumental music, Partha says. "Many instrumentalists, including my gurus, are from Kolkata. Pt. Ravi Shankar, though not from Kolkata, was a Bengali. There was a time when the culture of sitar, sarod and tabla peaked in Kolkata."

In south India, Partha says, families followed the traditional approach of promoting classical music by inviting teachers to their homes to teach. "Even housewives would learn music. This tradition was strong in Maharashtra too." Medha Basu, with whom Partha would be performing, is a scholar at the ITC Sangeet Research Academy, Kolkata.

"She is a talented musician training under Ajoy Chakrabarty and Brajeswar Mukherjee since 2017. These concerts are organised to promote younger talents alongside seasoned musicians. We want her voice also to be heard." Partha is the winner of the Basundhara Award (2012) by Mysore Gayana Sabha, Pandit Puttaraj Gawai National Award (2013), Jadu Bhatta Award, Alauddin Khan Puraskar in Instrumental Music by Government of West Bengal (2023).

Performing in Bengaluru is not new to Partha. He has performed twice, in the 90s, including at Max Mueller Bhavan.

Medha is a recipient of the National Scholarship for Hindustani Classical Music from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and is also pursuing a doctoral thesis in Physics on musical neurocognition from Jadavpur University.

The evening will feature a vocal recital by Medha, followed by a sitar recital by Partha. The duo will be accompanied by Bivash Sanghai and Udayraj Karpur on tabla and Satish Kolli on harmonium.

The concert, at Canara Union, Malleswaram, on August 3, 6pm, is open to all.

Artistic and intricate handiworks

Just handmade Some products you can look forward to at Kuteera. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Shilpa Anandraj

Kuteera 2024, which commences in Bengaluru this weekend, is an exhibition that will feature 35 artisans, social enterprises and organisations from across India. Besides this, the event will also include live craft demonstrations by visiting artisans and numerous craft kits that will provide children with craft activities, proving that handmade products are still in despite us living in an age where everything is driven by technology and AI.

Organised by the Crafts Council of Karnataka (CCK), in association with Creative Dignity, Kuteera is CCK's annual exhibition and sale that "is aimed at providing a platform for the craft community to showcase new design developments and handcrafted products. Through this platform, CCK aims to bridge the gap between creators and buyers, facilitate design intervention, help revive, support, and preserve the languishing crafts of Karnataka," says Revathi Prasad, an executive committee member of CCK, who has been associated with CCK since 2008 and she is the convenor for Kuteera 2024.

Creative Dignity, on the other hand, is a movement that brings together diverse creative producers, practitioners, and professionals to energise the ecosystem of Indian artisans. Their vision is for a world where artisans have the agency to thrive with dignity and they have curated a section with 10 stalls run by artisans that they have worked with closely in various design interventions for Kuteera, says Revathi.

"It will be an immersive experience which will give the visitors a chance to meet the artisans, learn a bit about their crafts, understand the challenges that they have gone through to create something and purchase directly from them. By doing so, we are ensuring that all proceeds go to supporting their livelihood."

Revathi also states that this year's Kuteera is also a festive edition as we have timed it before the festival season. We have raakis, Dasara dolls, Ganeshas, and return gifts for Dasara and Deepavali. Also as people change their home decor for festivities, we have a huge range of home decor and home linen. This year for Kuteera we will not be bringing textiles simply because when we have textiles, all eyes go only in that direction. We do have an exclusive textile exhibition called Vastrabharana."

Kuteera will feature accessories like thread and tribal jewellery, ceramic cookware and home decor with home linen from Tamil Nadu and toda embroidery from Kashmir and Tamil Nadu.

There will also be Kondapalli toys from Andhra, which are known for their vibrant colours.

"We have all crafts from Manipur like baskets, mats and more and Mirzapur carpets". From the northern Karnataka region, an organisation called Dakhni Diaries that works with sheep wool, brings its crocheted bags, blankets and laundry baskets.

Revathi believes handicrafts are thriving again. "People, mostly youngsters are taking a keen interest in handmade products. They value these products and are interested in learning about the craft and where the product is coming from."

Revathi enjoys working with crafts people. "It is an enriching experience.Also when you bring a work of craft home, you know the story behind each piece."

Kuteera, is at Chitrakala Parishat from August 3 to 7, *10.30am and 7.30pm. Entry is free. Call 23347299 for enquiries* .

Past and the present

Praveen Sudevan

Indian society has long been a crucible for women, casting judgmental eyes on those who dare to deviate from prescribed norms. From the annals of history to the present day, the relentless scrutiny of women's choices has been constant. Dramarsis' new production, *Aparajita* (which means undefeated), delves into this timeless struggle through the lives of two extraordinary women: Mirabai, a medieval princess, and Jahnavi, a contemporary woman navigating a complex world.

Separated by centuries, these women are united by their defiance.

Mirabai's unwavering devotion to Krishna and Jahnavi's secret life as a dancer challenge societal expectations profoundly.

First-time director, Aritra Biswas, says, "The play aims to highlight the enduring nature of societal judgment. Mirabai is ostracised for her devotion, while Jahnavi fears a similar fate for her secret life. It's a stark realisation that little has changed." The story, written by Gopichand Katragadda, underwent a transformation under the guidance of Dramarsis.

"The original story didn't include Mirabai as a central character," says Aritra, "We decided to bring her to the forefront and run her story parallel to Jahnavi's."

This creative choice transports the audience on a visual and auditory journey through time, from the medieval era to modern India. The play draws poignant parallels between Mirabai's and Jahnavi's experiences.

"We've incorporated some of the legendary tales of Mirabai's persecution into the play," says the director. "From facing assassination attempts to enduring social ostracism, Mirabai's journey is a stark contrast to Jahnavi's, where the fear of judgment often overshadows reality." However, the play also acknowledges the nuances of societal reactions, as Aritra explains, "We're not portraying everyone as judgmental. It's a more nuanced portrayal."

A journey through time Stills from the play. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Both characters are presented as complex individuals.

The play also explores into the complexities of Jahnavi's relationships as she navigates her dual life.

Aritra emphasises the play's intention to avoid didacticism. "We were careful to avoid sounding preachy," Instead, the play aims to provoke thought through subtle storytelling. "Any message is conveyed through the characters' actions and dialogue."

The production employs a unique staging approach to connect the two narratives. "We've kept the two stories largely separate on stage, using the same space to create overlaps between the past and present," says the director. This creative decision allows the audience to gradually uncover the interconnectedness between Mirabai and Jahnavi.

Aparajita will be staged at Jagriti Theatre, Whitefield, on August 3. Tickets on BookMyShow.

CITYBEATS

Lensview

AUGUST 2 TO 30
An exhibition of wildlife photographs by retired forest officer and wildlife photographer, MN Jayakumar (IFS, FRPS, MFIAP), called Nature's Splendour will commence on August 2. It will consist of 35 photographic art works, featuring 24 photos of mammals and 11 of birds clicked across India, Africa, and America. *At Sublime Galleria, UB City. Call 98440 06736.*

On the note of Sufi

AUGUST 3
Rehmat-e-Nusrat will perform in Bengaluru. There will be a blend of Sufi, qawwali, and ghazals. Rehmat-e-Nusrat was formed by Sarvjeet Tamta. The artistes will be Sarvjeet (lead vocals, harmonium), Sanjay (tabla), Anubhav and Deepak, Neeraj and Rohit (backing vocals). For tickets (₹3,000 seating and ₹1,500 standing), call Windmills.
At Windmills, Whitefield, 9.30pm

Divine explorations

ONGOING
Gallery G presents an art show titled *Mosaic of Modernity - Exploring Diversity in Art.* Organised in association with the Sandeep & Gitanjali Maini Foundation, it features works of eight artists from across India, each bringing their distinct genre and medium to the gallery. The exhibition, which concludes on August 15.
At Gallery G, Lavelle Road

Row over Kerala's disaster response

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan joins issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament that the Kerala government did not do enough despite the Centre's warning about excessive rain leading to possible landslides; Pinarayi says forecasts by agencies wide off the mark

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A political row has broken out over Kerala's disaster response in the wake of the catastrophic landslides that have so far claimed more than 200 lives and levelled three villages in Vythiri taluk in Wayanad district on Tuesday.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday joined issue with Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement in Parliament that the Kerala government did not do enough despite the Centre's warning about excessive rain leading to possible landslips. Mr. Shah claimed that the Kerala government did not gauge the severity of the situation accurately despite the Centre despatching nine National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams to the State on July 23. "Had those blaming the government read the warnings, the situation would have been different," Mr. Shah told the Lok Sabha.

Mr. Vijayan said the Centre had dispatched the NDRF teams at Kerala's behest, and not on its own volition. The State had moved an NDRF unit to Wayanad well in advance.

Mr. Vijayan appeared to suggest that forecasts by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Geological Survey of India (GSI), the Centre Meteorological Centre (CMC), and the Central Water Commission (CWC) were wide off the mark. "None of the agencies had issued a red alert for Wayanad ahead of the landslides," he said.

Path to safety: People stranded at Attamala after a massive landslide in Wayanad cross the temporary bridge on Wednesday. THULASI KAKKAT

Mr. Vijayan said the IMD and the CMC had given an orange alert for Wayanad. The CMC forecast rain ranging from 115 mm to 204 mm. However, the actual rainfall was much higher. The locality received 572 mm of rain in the 48 hours preceding the disaster.

"The rainfall far exceeded the initial warning. The area had never been on red alert before the disaster. However, after the incident, the agencies issued a red alert at 6 a.m. on July 30," Mr. Vijayan said.

He said the IMD did not issue orange alert warning of heavy rain in Kerala between July 23 and 28. "At 1 p.m. on July 29, the IMD issued an orange alert for Wayanad. The CMC sounded a red alert for Wayanad at 6 a.m. on July 30, after the disaster struck," Mr. Vijayan said. He said the GSI issued a green alert for July 30 and 31, indicating minor landslips or rock bursts. "However, by that time, heavy rain had already occurred, leading to the landslides," Mr. Vijayan said.

The CM said the CWC, responsible for issuing flood warnings, did not issue any surge warning for the Iruvanji or Chaliyar rivers. "The Union Minister has presented an information in Parliament that is inconsistent with facts." Mr Vijayan said. He reiterated that now was not the time for a blame game or political bickering. "The need of the hour is to expedite search, rescue, and rehabilitation operations to mitigate the suffering of the population," he added.

Wayanad ranked fifth in Kerala on ISRO's landslide atlas

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Wayanad, which is grappling with the horror of Tuesday's deadly landslide disaster, was among several places in Kerala that had been featured high on a national-level database created by the Indian Space Research Organisation in 2023 based on exposure to landslips in terms of "key socio-economic parameters."

A recent CAG report has noted the extent of fragmentation of the forestland in Wayanad

Among 147 districts in 17 States and two Union Territories, Wayanad is ranked 13th, while Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram and Kozhikode ranked third, fifth, seventh and tenth respectively in the Landslide Atlas of India prepared by the National Remote Sensing Centre, one of the ISRO centres, in February 2023.

Rudraprayag in Uttaranchal was ranked first in the landslide atlas, which specifically looked at landslide-prone Western Ghats and Himalayan regions.

"The vulnerability of the inhabitants and households is more significant in the Western Ghats due to the very high population and household density, especially in Kerala, even when fewer landslides exist than in the Himalayan regions," the document said. It further noted that the "steep escarpments of the Western Ghats record occurrences of landslides, but however, these are primarily controlled by the soil cover on the slopes."

A recent report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, while examining human-wildlife conflict in the State, had noted the extent of the fragmentation of forestland in Wayanad district.

"As per the Management Plan of the Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary, forestland of Wayanad district in 1950 was 1,811.35 sq km, which was reduced to 863.86 sq km in 2021," the Compliance Audit Report of CAG for the year ended March 31, 2022, tabled in the Assembly on July 11 observed.

The ISRO database covered "seasonal, event-based and route-wise" landslide inventories for the 1998-2022 period. The event-based component looked at major disasters that occurred across India, including the 2021 landslip at Puthumala in Wayanad.

Tamil Nadu relief team, assistance reach Kerala

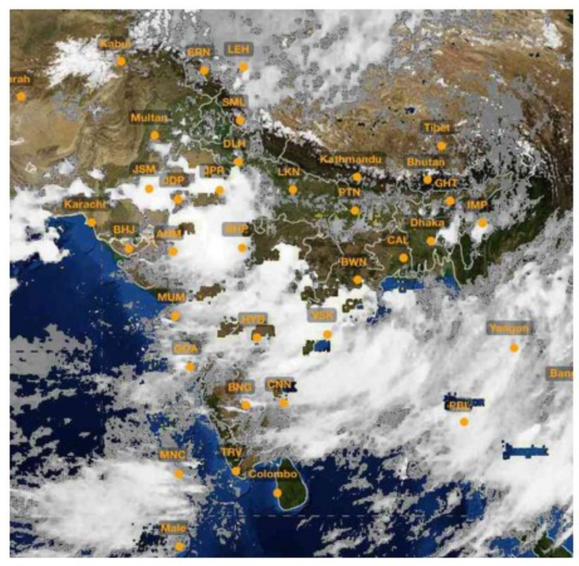
The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Minister for Public Works E.V. Velu handed over a cheque for ₹5 crore to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday towards relief operations. The relief team from Tamil Nadu reached Wayanad district.

Mr. Velu also handed over a letter from Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin to Mr. Vijayan, which assured Tamil Nadu's "continued support and help for Kerala to overcome the crisis".

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at a few/ isolated places over Rajasthan, Chandigarh, Delhi, Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.0	27.2	Kozhikode	36	27.0	24.0
Ahmedabad	—	34.6	26.5	Kurnool	0.1	36.0	25.7
Aizawl	4	31.1	23.6	Lucknow	—	33.0	29.6
Allahabad	—	30.4	28.8	Madurai	—	36.3	27.7
Bengaluru	—	27.2	20.2	Mangaluru	50.2	27.8	22.6
Bhopal	—	29.1	24.4	Mumbai	12	32.1	25.9
Bhubaneswar	0.6	31.8	27.2	Mysuru	9.6	30.0	—
Chandigarh	30	37.4	28.6	New Delhi	—	37.8	30.4
Chennai	—	37.0	29.2	Patna	0.8	36.2	30.0
Coimbatore	—	29.5	22.4	Port Blair	10	30.5	26.2
Dehradun	1	34.6	27.2	Puducherry	—	38.3	28.1
Gangtok	14	24.8	18.4	Pune	36.5	26.8	22.2
Goa	35	30.0	25.0	Raipur	1	28.8	26.2
Guwahati	—	35.8	27.6	Ranchi	1	30.7	24.8
Hubballi	—	27.0	23.0	Shillong	26	26.2	18.4
Hyderabad	—	32.6	24.4	Shimla	6	25.5	19.0
Imphal	0.2	29.1	22.7	Srinagar	0.3	35.1	22.2
Jaipur	—	35.5	28.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.5	31.2	24.5
Kochi	29	28.4	24.2	Tiruchi	—	37.1	27.4
Kohima	11	24.4	18.1	Vijayawada	1	36.0	25.4
Kolkata	—	35.0	28.2	Visakhapatnam	—	34.8	27.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.33	.26	66	65	90	
Bengaluru	.13	.36	83	37	51	
Chennai	.3	7	62	142	109	
Delhi	.18	.48	20	160	112	
Hyderabad	.14	.23	47	63	69	
Kolkata	.8	.66	24	51	53	
Lucknow	.6	.24	79	—	92	
Mumbai	.32	.13	.7	31	81	
Pune	.5	.32	41	35	28	
Visakhapatnam	.11	.54	23	55	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 224 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Cocaine valued at ₹10 crore seized at Bengaluru airport; woman arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

DRI officials have unearthed another international drug racket and caught a 47-year-old woman passenger and recovered 57 capsules of cocaine which she had consumed to be handed over to her contact in Delhi.

Based on specific intelligence, the officials confronted the Nigerian woman passenger as soon as she landed at the Kempegowda International Airport from Dubai and checked her baggage. The officials later subjected her to sustained interrogation, during which she allegedly admitted that she had ingested contraband in the form of capsules.

She was produced before the NDPS court for permission to do a medical examination and for the recovery of the capsules from her stomach. A total of 57 capsules containing narcotics have been purged from her body, officials said.

The contents of the capsules have tested positive for cocaine. The 57 capsules of cocaine (approx 1 kg) valued at ₹10 crore have been seized. The passenger has been arrested. A probe revealed that she was a mule who came to India on medical visa and was supposed to go to Delhi and handover the consignment to her contact there.

In a similar case, the DRI officials on July 18 unearthed a drug racket and recovered 3.6 kg of hydroponic weed worth ₹3.6 crore. Officers of the DRI, Bengaluru, intercepted a 24-year-old man from Kerala heading to Bangkok on a tourist visa at the KIA, who was suspected to be carrying contraband item in the baggage.

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Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | the hindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our clients **ARPANA AD ANKIT** are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder **FROM M/s. SUNCE CONSTRUCTIONS PRIVATE LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS M/S BRS ASSOCIATES)**, any person/s, Bank, Financial Institutions etc objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment Unit bearing **No. 1503,** having Super built up area of 1199.29 Sq.feet, of Block 'A' on the 15th Floor of the apartment project known as **"NITESH CAESARS PALACE PHASE- 2"** constructed on Land in Survey No. 17/2 and 40,293 Square Feet of Land in Survey No. 17/3, totally measuring 2,14,533 Square Feet, presently bearing Katha No. 25/17/2/17/3A, Situated in **Raghuvanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk,** coming under the limits of the BBMP and bounded on;

East by : Property bearing Sy. No. 17/3A, West by : Kanakapura Road North by : Property bearing Sy. No. 17/3, South by : Private Property bearing Sy. No. 17/1

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

E-Tender No.: **REL-TPF-THF-RT,** Dated: 29.07.2024. Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Maint, Rail Wheel Plant, Bela acting for and on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender through Indian Railways specialized tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in from reputed firms based on single packet system for the under mentioned work. **Name of work with its location and completion period:** Design, manufacturing, supply and Re-locating of TPF &THF. **Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 59,87,589/- **Bid security to be deposited:** ₹ 1,19,800/- **Tender closing date and time:** 27.08.2024 at 15:00 hrs. **Website particulars, notice boad location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid tenderer/bidder may kindly visit Indian Railways specialized tendering portal www.ireps.gov.in. The tenderer(s)/ bidder(s) are directed to remain connected with IREPS portal www.ireps.gov.in for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect tot he above tender.

For Dy. CME/Maint./RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2024-25/47

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Procurement (IREPS) Tender Notice No. H-GS-UBL-05-2024-25
Date:- 26-07-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.	Name of work	Approx Value	Submission Date & Time
1	**Sub Work- I**) Interlocking of mid-Section LC Gates having more than 80000 TVU's i.e. LC No. 59 at km 108/300-400 between Bhanapur-Koppal, LC No. 5 at km 1/900-2/000 between Hosapete-Vyasankeri and LC No. 3 3/200-300 between (Ballari-Obalapuram) over Hubballi Division. **Sub Work- II** Replacement of Mechanically Operated Lifting Barriers with Electrically Operated Lifting Barriers at Traffic Interlocked LC Gates over Hubballi Division (13 LC Gates) (Composite work)	Rs. 4,57,59,327	19-08-2024 upto 11:00 Hrs.
2	Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of General Consultant (GC) for Gatishakti Unit, Hubballi Division.	Rs. 2,89,69,461/-	02-09-2024 upto 11:00 Hrs.

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/312/AAF/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Deputy Chief Project Manager/S&T/Gati Shakti/Hubballi
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना
ई– निविदा सूचना संख्या – RDD/SD/CHAIBASA/02/2024-25

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र०सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	चाईबासा जिला के मनोहरपुर एवं आनन्दपुर प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत मनोहरपुर एवं आनन्दपुर प्रखण्ड को जोड़ने वाली ग्राम ढीपा एवं ग्राम कुड़ना के बीच कोयल नदी पर पुल निर्माण।	125327200.00	2507000.00	10000.00	24 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 05.08.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक 05.08.2024 से दिनांक 12.08.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेश प्रमण्डल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा।
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –14.08.2024 अपराह्न 2:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 8709623131 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

ह०/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,पश्चिमी सिंहभूम, चाईबासा

PR 331293 (West Singhbhum)24-25*D

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल दुमका

ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

निविदा संख्या– 05/2024-25/RWD/EE/DUMKA दिनांक– 29.07.2024

1. कार्यपालक अभियंता ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, दुमका द्वारा निम्न विवरणी के अनुसार E-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र. सं.	आईडेंटिफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	लंबाई (कि0 मी0)	प्राक्कलित राशि (रु० में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	RWD/DUMKA/15 /2024-25	ग्राम सरसाबाद आर.ई.ओ. रोड से फुलझिंझरी तक पथ निर्माण भाया झिकरा गमारपहाड़ी कुसुमघाटी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	8.000	7,33,05,100	सात करोड़ तैंतीस लाख पाँच हजार एक सौ	18 महीने
2	RWD/DUMKA/16 /2024-25	गंद्रकपुर से चकल्ता भाया दरबारपुर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	4.000	3,70,87,500	तीन करोड़ सत्तर लाख सतासी हजार पांच सौ	18 महीने
3	RWD/DUMKA/17 /2024-25	कन्हाईडीह से तेतुलमठ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	7.500	7,73,45,000	सात करोड़ तिहत्तर लाख पैंतालिस हजार	18 महीने
4	RWD/DUMKA/18 /2024-25	धुमनाही से तेतुलमठ तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	5.810	4,74,48,800	चार करोड़ चौहत्तर लाख अड़तालिस हजार आठ सौ	18 महीने
5	RWD/DUMKA/19 /2024-25	मजडीहा से काटकुपी आर.ई.ओ. रोड तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	2.400	2,74,00,600	दो करोड़ चौहत्तर लाख छः सौ	15 महीने
6	RWD/DUMKA/20 /2024-25	महुआडंगाल से डहुजोर नदी भाया कुरूवा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	3.800	4,23,21,300	चार करोड तेईस लाख इक्कीस हजार तीन सौ	18 महीने
7	RWD/DUMKA/21 /2024-25	ग्राम श्रीअमड़ा में प्रधान सोरेन के घर से परीमल मुर्मू के घर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य।	2.000	1,74,17,500	एक करोड़ चौहत्तर लाख सतरह हजार पांच सौ	12 महीने

1. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि 05.08.2024
2. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय 27.08.2024 अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक।
3. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि Online के माध्यम से जमा किया जाएगा।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि 29.08.2024 एवं समय पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, दुमका।
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का सम्पर्क संख्या– 06434 291033
7. विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए jharkhandtenders.gov.in/ नोटिस बोर्ड में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,
कार्य प्रमंडल दुमका

PR 331208 Rural Work Department (24-25)_D

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Amara Jyothi English School proudly held their Investiture Ceremony to instil leadership qualities in students. The newly elected members of the student council were conferred with badges and sashes by the Principal, Ms Saikumari. The student leaders then took an oath to uphold the school's motto with the highest esteem.

CARMEL RUN 3

Carmel High School, Basaveshwaranagar, Bengaluru, held the 3rd edition of their health initiative, "Carmel Run," at the B.R. Ambedkar Stadium. Over 750 participants, including students, parents, and the public, promoted a healthy lifestyle. The event was flagged off by Huzefa Talib, Strength and Conditioning Coach of the Royal Challengers Bangalore Women's Team, and Arjun Devaiah, international athlete and CEO of the Abhimanyu Academy. "Carmel Run" was a resounding success, exemplifying the school's dedication to fostering a healthy community spirit.

EDUTAINMENT AT ITS BEST FOR YOUNG READERS

Young World Club is a fun-filled online edutainment portal, from The Hindu, packed with rich multimedia content to make learning fun. It offers children new ways to learn through its interactive sections on Think, Read, Do, Travel, Play, and Change. The content is presented in various interactive formats such as quizzes, crosswords, sliders, puzzles, dialog cards, flash cards, presentations, videos, games, timelines, and so on. Exclusively curated for children of ages 8-15, this web platform offers children new ways to understand diverse topics.

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Unnatural disaster

Kerala must restore denuded flora and rehabilitate people in vulnerable areas

Climate change can encourage unprecedented weather, precipitating natural disasters of magnitudes that may surprise local responders. The calamitous landslides in Wayanad district in Kerala on July 30 are not necessarily such disasters. Parts of Kerala have been bearing the brunt of heavy rains during the southwest monsoon and landslides are a yearly affair. But deadly landslides are new. This week, heavy rains triggered multiple landslides that have killed 200 people and laid waste to a few villages. The region is a tourist destination and incentivises infrastructure development to maximise revenue potential. The Chaliyar river here springs from an altitude of around 2 km and flows in a sheer path down towards Vellarmala, bringing fast waters that also sweep relatively more sediment downstream. The rains this year further increased the river's volume and force, which swept up debris and deposited it in the villages settled on less steep land where many of the deaths have been reported. But the tragedy is compounded by the fact that heavy rains here in 2020 had caused the Chaliyar to strip swaths of its upstream areas of plant cover, leaving more rocks and humus vulnerable to being displaced.

The geographical peculiarities of landslide-prone Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram, and Wayanad have been evident for years; they also feature prominently on landslide risk maps. Blame for the landslides' deadly recurrence must thus be shared by climate change and a State that has been repeatedly caught off-guard. A recurring issue is an abject lack of advance warning and emergency preparedness. Landslides are more common in ecologically fragile areas. The monsoons have been producing more short bursts of intense rain, resulting in some soil types becoming easier to dislodge while quarrying; linear infrastructure development, construction activities, and monocropping have compromised ecosystems' ability to cope with changing natural conditions. For these reasons, patterns of land use must not change and the State must restore denuded flora and rehabilitate people in these areas to ensure they have other opportunities for their welfare. As recommended by the Western Ghats Ecology Expert Panel, Kerala must also decline engineering projects in ecologically sensitive areas and their surroundings, and constitute, equip, staff, and empower expert committees that deliberate the feasibility of other projects here. Indeed, the panel's recommendations were designed to tame the effects of unpredictable weather without also denting economic growth, but Kerala today is sliding past the point of having an option to balance development needs with environmental concerns.

Problem power

Small modular reactors must deal with the cost of proliferation resistance

The Indian government is planning to team up with the private sector to study and test small modular reactors (SMRs). Nuclear energy is an important power source in the world's energy mix as it waits for the development and maturation of (other) renewable energy technologies while fossil-fuel-based sources, especially coal, continue to remain relevant and more affordable. Nuclear power offers a sufficiently high and sustainable power output, even if externalised costs like those of building safe and reliable reactors and handling spent nuclear fuel complicate this calculus. Indeed, cost and time estimates that expand to nearly twice as much as at the point of a project's commissioning are not unheard of. The nuclear power tariff is thus higher from 'younger' facilities, even if they also fill gaps that haunt power from renewable sources. SMRs, of 10 MWe-300 MWe each, are smaller versions of their conventional counterparts. They aspire to be safer without compromising commercial feasibility by leveraging the higher energy content of nuclear fuel, a modular design, a smaller operational surface area, and lower capital costs. But the challenge is to have this aspiration survive SMRs' external costs.

The government's privatisation of nuclear power generation will also increase the demand for regulatory safeguards against radioactive material being diverted for military use. The first-generation SMRs are expected to use low-enriched uranium in facilities assembled on-site with factory-made parts, to produce waste that can be handled using existing technologies and power that can be sold at economical rates. But the reactor will need frequent refuelling and will yield a consequential amount of plutonium; both outcomes will stress proliferation resistance. The IAEA has touted the use of 'safeguardable' reactor designs but such solutions will increase capital costs. Subsequent SMR generations may also require more enriched uranium, especially if their feasibility is pegged on longer periods of continuous generation, or more sophisticated systems to increase fuel-use efficiency, which would increase the operational surface area and the generation cost. In fact, nuclear reactors have a fixed baseline cost and safety expectations that do not change with energy output, which means SMR-based tariffs need not automatically be lower. This is why the Department of Atomic Energy increased its reactors' capacity from 220 MW to 700 MW. SMRs' ability to bolster the prospects of nuclear power in India will thus depend on their commercial viability – and in turn on the availability of less uncertain market conditions, stable grids, and opportunities to mass-produce parts – and the price of proliferation resistance.

The global struggle for a pandemic treaty

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After great fanfare and over two years of political negotiations, 194 World Health Organization (WHO) member states failed to finalise a historic Pandemic Agreement, an international treaty designed to fortify global pandemic preparedness, implement mechanisms for prevention of the same, and reduce unconscionable inequities that were painfully obvious during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 77th World Health Assembly, or WHA (May 27-June 1, 2024), in Geneva, witnessed two significant developments for global health governance. First, it agreed on a package of amendments to the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005, drawn from 300 proposals for reform by governments of both the global north and south, and extensively negotiated over the last two years. The IHR amendments aim to enhance the ability of countries to prepare for and respond to Public Health Emergencies of International Concern (PHEIC) and introduce a new category for urgent international response – a Pandemic Emergency (PE). The amendments aim to ensure equitable access to health products during health emergencies and to mobilise financial resources to support developing countries in building and maintaining core health system capacities required under the IHR. Notably, the amendments emphasise solidarity and equity, while mandating the creation of a National IHR Authority for better coordination.

Second, the 77th WHA extended the mandate of the Pandemic Treaty negotiating body, namely, the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB), stipulating that the proposed WHO Pandemic Agreement must be completed as soon as possible. The outcome should be submitted for consideration at the 78th World Health Assembly in May 2025, or earlier if possible, at a Special Session of the World Health Assembly in 2024.

Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing

Three key contentious issues in the latest draft of the Pandemic Agreement remain significant obstacles to its adoption: a pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS) mechanism; technology transfer, local production, and intellectual property; and the One Health approach which emphasises coordinated public health measures based on animal, human, and environmental health. These core provisions, which are fundamental to achieving a safer and fairer world, are stalled due to geopolitical discord and competing interests between higher- and lower-income countries. Skilled diplomats and political leaders must understand that international cooperation and mutual solidarity are a win-win for global health security.

> The world must strive to overcome the obstacles as the treaty is a blueprint for a more equitable and resilient global health system

The most contentious issue in the pandemic agreement negotiations has been the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system in Article 12, often seen as the "heart" of the agreement. The imperative for PABS emerged in response to the gross inequities in treatment access and vaccine distribution witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The PABS system aims to ensure that genetic resources and pathogen samples shared from developing countries (which are the most likely sources for such pathogens), are reciprocated with corresponding benefits such as vaccines and diagnostics that result from research and development on samples and data provided from the Global South. The latest proposal suggests that manufacturers of vaccines and diagnostics – primarily based in wealthy countries – using genetic information from pathogens in low- and middle-income countries, would commit to donating a portion of their products to WHO for global distribution based on the principles of need and effectiveness.

Low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are pushing for a guarantee of at least 20% of shared pandemic products, while many high-income countries argue that 20% should be the maximum limit, and some rich countries will not even agree to 20%.

Technology transfer, intellectual property

Intellectual property protections, rich-world hoarding, export restrictions, and manufacturing limitations all contributed to vaccine inequity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The transfer of technology, know-how, and skills is often a crucial step toward preparing for and responding to pandemics. Strong provisions for technology transfers and local production could potentially compensate for the failures in PABS negotiations. Above all, technology transfer and intellectual property waivers are needed to ensure diverse manufacturing capacities globally so that LMICs are no longer reliant on "charity" from high-income countries and can maintain self-sufficiency.

Next to PABS, the fierce division over governance of production and technology transfer, and its implications on intellectual property, outlined in Articles 10 and 11, has significantly delayed negotiations. The central issue is the conditions for technology transfer to "facilitate sustainable and geographically diversified production" through mechanisms such as product information sharing and use of WTO- Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) flexibilities such as compulsory licensing. There remains a lack of consensus on the transfer of 'know-how' and the binding nature of these transfers.

High-income countries advocate for Voluntary and Mutually Agreed Terms (VMAT), but the use of VMAT language could discourage countries, particularly LMICs, from adopting mandatory approaches recognised under the TRIPS Agreement.

Disagreement also mounts over the so-called 'peace clause' which requires member states to respect the use of the TRIPS flexibilities and not exercise any direct or indirect pressure to discourage the use of such flexibilities.

One Health

The draft Agreement requires member states to adopt a pandemic preparedness and surveillance approach that recognises the interconnection between the health of people, animals, and the environment and promotes a coherent, integrated, coordinated, and collaborative effort among all relevant organisations, sectors, and actors, as appropriate. High-income countries, particularly the European Union, strongly support One Health. However, LMICs view it as an unfunded mandate that imposes an additional burden on their already strained resources.

The enduring obstacle in international law is its enforcement. Given the lack of robust compliance mechanism and, consequently, the lack of real accountability in International Health Regulations (IHR), implementation of the Pandemic Agreement remains a critical concern. The proposed Conference of Parties (COP) will play a crucial role in this regard by taking stock of its implementation and reviewing its functioning every five years. The latest draft of the agreement has proposed the COP to consider establishing, at its first meeting, an inclusive, transparent, and effective monitoring and evaluation system, in a manner consistent with the IHR. In the forthcoming negotiations, it remains to be seen how countries, especially wealthy nations, respond to this proposal.

A core aim of the Pandemic Agreement – beyond ensuring the immediate availability of medical products during emergencies – should be to promote long-term and sustainable access to these products by diversifying production and enhancing regional manufacturing capabilities. Issues of pathogen access and technology transfer are not mere technicalities; they are essential to the success of the pandemic agreement once it is adopted. With the recent amendments to the IHR and the ongoing Pandemic Agreement negotiations, the world has already made unprecedented strides in international law. The coming months of negotiations are crucial. This treaty is not just for the next pandemic but also serves as a blueprint for a more equitable and resilient global health system.

AI needs cultural policies, not just regulation

Clément Godbarge
Lecturer in Digital Humanities, School of Modern Languages, The University of St Andrews, U.K.

The future of Artificial Intelligence (AI) will not be secured by regulation alone. To ensure safe and trustworthy AI for all, we must balance regulation with policies which promote high-quality data as a public good. This approach is crucial for fostering transparency, creating a level playing field, and building public trust. Only by giving fair and wide access to data can we realise AI's full potential and distribute its benefits equitably.

Data are the lifeblood of AI. In this regard, the laws of neural scaling are simple: the more, the better. The more volume and diversity of human-generated text is available for unsupervised learning, for example, the better the performance of Large Language Models (LLMs) will be. Alongside computing power and algorithmic innovations, data arguably are the most important driver of progress in the field.

A data race at the expense of ethics

But there is a problem. Humans do not produce enough digital content to feed these ever-growing beasts. Current training datasets are already huge: Meta's LLama 3, for example, is trained on 15 trillion tokens, equivalent to over 10 times the British Library's book collection. According to a recent study, the demand for pristine text is such that we might reach something akin to 'peak data' before 2030. Other papers caution against the dangers of public data contamination by LLMs themselves, causing feedback loops that amplify biases and deplete diversity.

Fears of an 'AI winter' reflect the relentless race for data in which researchers and industry players are engaged, sometimes at the expense of quality and ethics. A prime example is 'Books3', a trove of pirated books widely believed to feed leading LLMs. Whether such practice falls under fair-use policy is a debate for lawyers. What is more disturbing is that these books are being hoarded without any clear guiding principle.

> Only by giving fair and wide access to data can AI's full potential be realised and its benefits distributed equitably

Even if progress is being made, notably thanks to regulation, LLMs are still largely trained on an inscrutable morass of licensed content, 'publicly available data', and 'social media interactions'. However, studies show that these data reflect, and sometimes even exacerbate, the current distortions of our cyberspace: an overwhelmingly anglophone and presentist world.

The absence of primary sources

The notion that LLMs are trained on a universal compendium of human knowledge is a fanciful delusion. Current LLMs are far from the universal library envisioned by the likes of Leibniz and Borges. While stashes of stolen scriptures like 'Books3' may include some scholarly works, these are largely secondary sources written in English: commentaries that merely skim the surface of human culture. Conspicuously absent are the primary sources and their myriad tongues: the archival documents, oral traditions, forgotten tomes in public depositories, inscriptions etched in stone – the very raw materials of our cultural heritage.

These documents represent an untapped reservoir of linguistic data. Consider Italy. The State Archives of this nation alone harbour no less than 1,500 kilometres of shelved documents (in terms of linear measurement) – excluding the vast holdings of the Vatican. Estimating the total volume of tokens that could be derived from this heritage is difficult. However, if we include the hundreds of archives spreading across our five continents, it is reasonable to believe that they could reach, if not surpass, the magnitude of data currently used to train LLMs.

If harnessed, these data would not only enrich AI's understanding of humanity's cultural wealth but also make it more accessible to the world. They could revolutionise our understanding of history, while safeguarding the world's cultural heritage from negligence, war, and climate change. They also promise significant economic benefits. As well as helping neural networks scale up, their release into the public domain would mean that smaller companies, startups, and the open-source AI community could use those large pools of free and transparent data to develop their own applications, levelling the playing field against Big Tech while fostering innovation on a global scale.

Examples from Italy and Canada

Advances in the digital humanities, notably thanks to AI, have drastically reduced the cost of digitisation, enabling us to extract text from printed and manuscript documents with unprecedented accuracy and speed. Italy recognised this potential, earmarking €500 million of its 'Next Generation EU' package for the 'Digital Library' project. Unfortunately, this ambitious initiative, aimed at making Italy's rich heritage accessible as open data, has since been deprioritised and restructured. Shortsightedness prevailed.

Canada's Official Languages Act offers an instructive lesson in this regard. Long derided as wasteful, this policy requiring bilingual institutions eventually yielded one of the most valuable datasets for training translation software.

However, recent debates about adopting regional languages in the Spanish Cortes and European Union institutions have overlooked this key point. Even advocates have failed to recognise the cultural, economic, and technological benefits of promoting the digitisation of low-resource languages as complementary.

As we accelerate the digital transition, we must not overlook the immense potential of our world's cultural heritage. Its digitisation is key to preserving history, democratising knowledge, and unleashing truly inclusive AI innovation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A stark reminder

The Wayanad tragedy is a stark reminder that things cannot continue as usual as far as the hills are concerned. That there has been a huge loss of life in Wayanad points to the need for expanded thinking. Wayanad is extremely vulnerable to landslides and soil erosion. Just as in the Himalayas, the Western Ghats have a few similarities in extreme vulnerabilities. The Himalayas faced the brunt last year where more than 400 people died in Himachal Pradesh and there was a loss of ₹12,000 crore in terms of assets. Another point is that in the hills, once water reaches a level of sequestration, slides are bound to happen even if there is 100% tree canopy. This was pointed out by the anthropologist Michael Thomson in the 1970s in a co-authored work, *Uncertainty on a Himalayan Scale: An Institutional Theory of Environmental Perception and a Strategic Framework for the Sustainable Development of the Himalayas*.

The IPCC VI has pointed out that extreme weather events are bound to be more frequent. Hence, adaptation is the only way to preserve lives in the mountains. Adaptation would start by mapping every patch of land. 'No means no' should be the development dictum in landslide-prone zones. Remote-sensing technology is required. Stay away from vulnerable zones. Enhancing the capacities of early warning systems and integration of institutions are a must. Local governance institutions must ensure that they have and are aware of a climate atlas for their regions.

Tikender Panwar,
New Delhi

Gubernatorial office

Preventing Governors from acting in a quasi-judicial manner has been a long-standing demand of many a State government. While the Supreme Court of India had highlighted the need for Governors act within the confines of the constitutional office, the recent petition by the Kerala governmentshould be used as yet another opportunity for the Court to have a closer look at the inactions of Governors.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

Corrections & Clarifications

The photograph published along with the lead report, "122 dead as landslides flatten Wayanad villages" (July 31, 2024), was issued by the National Disaster Response Force as that of rescue operations in an area affected by the Wayanad landslide. It is a photograph of the year 2020, from a disaster site in Idukki district.

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Early detection of lung cancer can save lives

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The insidious nature of lung cancer has made it one of the most formidable public health challenges of our time. Lung cancer was first discovered in the early 1900s in autopsies. Later advances in imaging technologies, bronchosopy, and molecular diagnostics helped diagnose it more frequently and reliably in the 20th century. As we confront this growing epidemic on August 1, observed as World Lung Cancer Day, understanding the multifaceted aspects of lung cancer – from its risk factors to the critical importance of early detection – becomes paramount.

A silently growing concern

Lung cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths globally. As per the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the incidence of lung cancer is rising rapidly every year in India, and contributes to 10% of cancer deaths. India ranks fourth globally in terms of the absolute number of lung cancer cases, with 81,000 cases and 75,000 deaths reported in 2022. This is expected to double by 2025.

Currently, lung cancer is most often detected in Indians only at Stage 3 or 4, by which time it is no longer curable, leading to poor survival rates. Over half of the patients present with distant metastasis at diagnosis. This delay is often due to inadequate screening, resource constraints, lack of a structured referral system, and a high burden of tuberculosis (TB). Primary care physicians may not recognise lung cancer due to these factors. So, an augmented intelligence system to suggest diagnoses based on imaging or history may help.

While India has developed frameworks for different cancer screening programmes, lung cancer is yet to be included. The recent ICMR call to researchers for a rigorous evaluation of population health to set the appropriate guidelines for screening is an encouraging sign.

The increasing prevalence of lung cancer is attributed not only to smoking but also to rising levels of air pollution. Alarmingly, the number of lung cancer deaths attributed to air pollution has surged by nearly 30% since 2007. When a large number of harmful substances accumulate in the air, such as particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, toxic metals) and gases (sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide), they can cause detrimental effects on lung health, resulting in lung cancer.

Smoking tobacco (including cigarettes, beedis, cigars, and pipes) is the primary risk factor for lung cancer. Factors affecting non-smokers include exposure to second-hand smoke, occupational hazards (such as asbestos, radon and certain chemicals), air pollution, hereditary cancer syndromes, and previous chronic lung diseases. Notably, about 40% of lung cancer patients in north India are non-smokers. This underlines the need for broader awareness and preventive measures. Often, a combination of factors contributes to lung cancer among non-smokers. One of the strongest predictors can be genetic mutation. Lung cancers associated with non-smokers often affect younger individuals and show distinct genetic changes compared to smoker-related cancers.

Importance of early detection

The high rate of disability-adjusted life years due to lung cancer in India underscores the critical need for early detection, which is vital to improving lung cancer outcomes. Despite having a considerable burden of lung cancer, India does not have a systematic lung cancer screening programme because of cost and logistical constraints, and concerns regarding high false-positive rates owing to the TB burden. Although newer medications may extend life in advanced stage lung cancer, these are often expensive. It is better to prevent and detect it early.

When detected early enough, lung cancer is curable. Lung cancer can be diagnosed by imaging methods such as Chest X-ray and CT scan. Chest X-rays typically only pick up nodules or masses which are either greater than 2 cm in size or closer to the chest wall (<2.5 cm), and so may not detect early-stage lung cancer effectively. There are no blood biomarkers for lung cancer yet, although active investigation into various techniques including exhaled breath analysis is ongoing.

In recent times, the Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) has emerged as a game-changer. This scan uses five times less radiation than a conventional CT scan and has become the first choice for early lung cancer screening. It is currently being recommended in the United States and Europe for routine lung cancer screening. Since LDCT uses a much lower dose of radiation, the test can be done periodically and sometimes even annually in certain groups.

Studies have shown that LDCT can lower the mortality rate from lung cancer by 20% compared to detection with Chest X-rays and by 24% compared to no screening at all. Although LDCT uses lower radiation, the sensitivity allows detection of potentially cancerous nodules or lesions within the lungs years before the onset of symptoms, improving both the range of possible therapies and treatment.

Lung cancer is a serious problem that demands a concerted effort from individuals, healthcare providers, and policymakers to raise awareness, implement smoking cessation programmes as well as safety measures for occupational exposures. In addition, research into better diagnostic technologies and treatment modalities for the Indian population, alongside a national lung cancer screening programme, will be required to combat this silent epidemic and ensure better survival rates.

Despite having a considerable burden of lung cancer, India does not yet have a systematic screening programme

The BJP's factionalism problem in Kerala

Poor leadership and the absence of an intellectual wing are affecting the party

STATE OF PLAY

Biju Govind
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The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ended its electoral drought in Kerala when actor-politician Suresh Gopi won from Thrissur in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Following the celebrations, the party has realised that the road ahead is full of challenges.

Although the victory of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) was confined to only one seat, its vote share increased from 15.64% in 2019 to 19.25% in 2024. The party also established leads in 11 Assembly segments across the State and secured the second position in nine others. The ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the State, which won only one seat, had secured 36.29% in 2019; this time, it secured 33.36%. The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF), which won the remaining 18 out of 20 seats, also experienced a decline in vote share from 47.48% in 2019 to 45.21% in 2024. In 90 of the 140 Assembly segments, the Congress's votes decreased by more than 10,000.

The impressive performances of BJP candidates Rajeev Chandrasekhar in Thiruvananthapuram, former State president V. Muraleedharan in Attingal, and State vice-president Shobha Surendran in Alappuzha showed that the party's influence is growing in areas that were traditionally dominated by Congress and CPI(M).

The factors contributing to the BJP's increased vote share this time can be understood by examining the different phases of the party's growth in Kerala. Usually, the BJP's vote share

hovered around 8% in general elections. In 2014, soon after the party came to power at the Centre, it began attracting a segment of the Nair votes. This community was traditionally aligned with the Congress. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP expanded its base by drawing voters from both the Congress and the CPI(M). In the 2024 elections, there was a significant erosion of the CPI (M)'s votebank among the Hindu Ezhava/Thiyya community, which benefited the BJP. The party began to get support from Christians too. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's frequent visits to the State played a crucial role in the BJP's improved performance this time.

But the BJP faces multiple challenges. The first is the deep-rooted factionalism in the party that even its parent organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has struggled to address. The RSS unexpectedly recalled *pracharak* K. Subhash from his role as organisational general secretary late last month. Mr. Subhash was reportedly dissatisfied with the party's leadership. It is unclear whether the RSS will assign a new *pracharak* for the post.

To achieve its goal of navigating the politically bipolar landscape dominated by the LDF and UDF in the State, the BJP Central leadership needs to revitalise its State leadership and focus on long-term electoral strategies. Generally, leaders from the two factions of the party contest elections to either the Lok Sabha or the Assembly from constituencies where the BJP's vote share increased in the previous election. The party is yet to learn from the fruitless practice of rotating leaders among constituencies in each election cycle.

Many within the party believe that it is time to elect a more effective leader for the State unit. The State president, K. Surendran, has been given an extended tenure. There are many leaders in the party who are vying for his post. The two factions of the party are led by former State BJP presidents V. Muraleedharan and P.K. Krishnadas, who both seem determined to secure this position for their affiliates.

The BJP also lacks an intellectual and publicity wing to forcefully counter criticisms that come it way, and shape the political discourse. The absence of writers, historians, thinkers, and social and cultural leaders in the party negatively impacts its identity. Establishing a think tank focused on Kerala-specific policies could help the BJP. This is especially important considering the criticism it has received over the Union Budget. The government offered little to Kerala and did not mention the long-awaited All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the Budget. The arguments of the two Union Ministers of State from Kerala, Mr. Gopi and George Kurian, defending the Budget, were unconvincing.

A strategic selection of candidates for the upcoming by-polls in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and the Palakkad and Chelakkara Assembly segments could perhaps brighten the party's prospects in the local body elections next year.

The middle class, which moved away from BJP, is upset with Budget

The BJP's support from the middle class came down in the Lok Sabha polls. The party is facing further disillusionment from this section after the Budget

DATA POINT

Sanjay Kumar

The middle class seems upset with the Union Budget, presented on July 23. Many said that the government did not provide them any relief. The middle class constitutes nearly 31% of India's population. Not many Budgets paid a great deal of attention to the demands and needs of the middle class either. But given the shift of the middle class away from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, this section, which has been the backbone of the BJP for decades, perhaps hoped that it would be offered more in the Budget.

The Finance Minister acknowledged the challenges of the middle class and emphasised the government's efforts to provide relief through tax adjustments despite limitations. Tax is a major concern for the middle class; most taxpayers belong to the middle class.

Budgetary provisions

The proposed increase in Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) tax from 10% to 12.5% and Short Term Capital Gains (STCG) tax from 15% to 20% affects those who invest in mutual funds and shares. This means that a large number of people belonging to the middle class, who invest in these financial instruments, may see a higher tax burden on their returns. This makes investments less attractive and reduces their potential gains.

The removal of indexation benefits, which adjust for inflation, for individuals selling properties is also going to hurt the middle class to a great extent. This change will result in higher taxable gains on the sale of properties, thereby increasing the tax liability for middle-class individuals. This could significantly impact those who rely on property sales for financial gains or retirement planning.

The deduction limit under Section 80D in the Income Tax Act has remained static for nearly a decade. Middle-class families, who often rely on tax deductions to manage their finances, face higher out-of-pocket healthcare expenses as the benefits of this deduction have not kept pace with rising medical costs. This stagnation reduces the real value of the deduction over time, placing a greater financial burden on the middle class. Collectively, these budgetary provisions are likely to contribute to a sense of dissatisfaction and impose a financial strain on the middle class, who feel that their significant contributions have not been acknoledged and challenges not adequately addressed.

The BJP's losses and gains

The BJP has suffered losses in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections compared to the 2019 elections. The unhappiness of the middle class was one of the many reasons for its losses. Data from the post-poll survey by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) confirm that there was a shift among middle and upper middle classes voters away from the BJP.

Table 1 shows that there was a 3% point shift among middle class voters away from the BJP – from 38% in 2019 to 35% in 2024.

Though the Congress did not gain from middle class voters, the INDIA bloc, of which it is a part, secured a 3-point increase in vote share from middle class voters in 2024 compared to 2019.

The BJP also lost votes from upper middle class voters. During 2019, 44% of the upper middle class voters chose the BJP; this declined to 41% in 2024. This reduced share also affected the vote share of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), of which the BJP is a part, in 2024.

On the other hand, there was a 2-point gain in vote share for the Congress from upper middle class voters in 2024. The party's allies gained much more from upper middle class voters. Among the upper middle class voters, 27% voted for the United Progressive Alliance (UPA)/INDIA bloc in 2019 and 32% voted in 2024 **(Table 2).**

The BJP held on to its support from the lower income groups. In 2019, 35% of the voters from lower income groups chose the BJP. This was the case in 2024 too.

The INDIA bloc managed to secure a 7-point increase from voters belonging to lower income groups compared to 2019. While in 2019, 28% of the lower income voters chose the UPA; this increased to 35% for the INDIA bloc in 2024 **(Table 3).**

Voters belonging to the lowest income groups voted for the Congress and INDIA bloc in a substantial way (21% for the Congress and 34% for the INDIA bloc) in 2024. It is important to note that the BJP's support base increased marginally among the voters from the lowest income groups. During 2019, 36% of the voters from the lowest income groups voted for the BJP. This increased to 37% in 2024.

The pattern seems to be clear. The higher the income category, the higher the losses for the BJP in 2024 compared to 2019. The BJP lost popularity among the middle and upper middle classes, maintained its support base among the lower income class, and marginally got more support from among the poorer classes.

The BJP's increased popularity among the lowest category of voters can be attributed to the free rations that the government distributes to a large section of voters who mostly belong to these income categories; and various other welfare schemes. But the decline in the BJP's support base among the middle and the upper middle classes is clear. It is time for the BJP to re-think how it is going to appease both the poor and the middle cases at the same time. Can it afford to ignore the middle class at the cost of appeasing the poor?

Sanjay Kumar is Professor and Co-director Lokniti-CSDS

Wavering support

The data for the tables were sourced from the National Election Study 2014-24, conducted by Lokniti-CSDS. All figures are in percentage.

Table 1: The shift among middle class voters in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	20	23	32	39	38
2019	21	29	38	46	25
2024	20	32	35	43	25

Table 2: The upper middle class vote in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	17	20	38	44	36
2019	20	27	44	51	22
2024	22	32	41	48	20

Table 3: The lower income group vote: LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	19	23	31	39	38
2019	21	28	35	42	30
2024	22	35	35	42	23

Table 4: The lowest income group vote in the LS elections (2014-24)

Election year	Congress	UPA/INDIA bloc	BJP	NDA	Others
2014	20	24	24	32	44
2019	17	23	36	43	34
2024	21	34	37	43	23

- *The BJP has suffered more losses in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections when compared to the 2019 elections. The unhappiness of the middle class was one of the many reasons. Data from the post-poll survey by Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) confirm that there was a shift away from the BJP among middle and upper middle classes voters.*
- *Voters from the lowest income groups voted for the Congress and INDIA bloc in a substantial way (21% for the Congress and 34% for the INDIA bloc) in 2024.*
- *It is important to note that the BJP's support base rose marginally among voters from the lowest income groups, from 36% in 2019 to 37% in 2024.*

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 1, 1974

New security zones to be set up in Cyprus

London, July 31: The first stage of the tripartite peace conference on Cyprus ended in Geneva last night when the Foreign Ministers of Britain, Greece and Turkey signed the "Declaration of Geneva." The declaration mainly deals with the establishment of principles of a ceasefire, but sets August 8 as the date for resumption of ministerial talks which will begin to approach the island's constitutional issues.

The declaration states that there shall be no further territorial gains either by the Greek or the Turkish forces in Cyprus as of 11 p.m. on Tuesday. It calls on all forces, including irregular forces, to desist from offensive or hostile activities. New security zones will be established in Cyprus "at the limit of the areas occupied by Turkish forces." The size and character of this zone have not been determined, but to-day, at dawn, the British, Greek and Turkish officers in Cyprus began detailed work of mapping out this security zone. They are accompanied by representatives of the United Nations. Orders have gone out to all parties to give them every possible assistance. The crux of the agreement is that hostilities on the island have ceased without a call for Turkish withdrawal.

A durable and permanent solution of the crisis in Cyprus is still a long way off.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 1, 1924

Calcutta High Court

A case of infringement of Trade-Mark and Registered Patent Right was settled by the infringers, Messrs. Mullick and Co. of Calcutta, consenting to a decree in the Calcutta High Court. The plaintiffs were Messrs. The Dunlop Rubber Co. Ltd., who are the owners of the Roadster cycle tyre with distinctive marks and a device consisting of embossed studs and lines forming the tread. Evidence was given by members of the tyre trade supporting the plaintiffs' contention that the tyres in question styled the 'Pacific' were a close copy of the Roadster tyre and were sufficient to deceive unwary purchasers. Under these circumstances, the decree restricted Messrs. Mullick and Co. from selling or disposing of any cycle tyres marked 'Pacific' and bearing a tread which is a colourable representation of Messrs. Dunlop's Roadster cycle tyre.

From Page One

Death toll in Wayanad landslide crosses 200

The heavy layer of slush and the slippery terrain adversely affected the progress of the search on Wednesday. A makeshift bridge, constructed by soldiers, to cross the river for rescue operations was submerged in rainwater by evening. Meanwhile, the Army started building a 190-metre Bailey bridge across the Punna river, a tributary of the Chaliyar river, to connect the affected areas. The bridge would have a carrying capacity of 20 tonnes and the construction would be completed by Friday evening.

Kerala and Karnataka sub-area General Officer Commanding (GOC) Major-General V.T. Mathew, who was coordinating the Army's rescue operations, said 100 more soldiers and three sniffer dogs would soon join the rescue operations at Chooralmala.

The district administration is considering the feasibility of modern techniques such as ground mapping and use of the ground penetrating radar to retrieve the bodies buried deep in the debris.

Mr. Vijayan told presspersons in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday before leaving for Wayanad that efforts were on to relocate citizens, including tribal people, from landslide-prone areas.

Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas killed in Iran

Hezbollah, which denied any role in the Golan strike, said on Wednesday that it was still searching for the body of Fouad Shukur in the rubble of the building that was hit in a Beirut suburb, killing two women and two children, according to the Lebanese Health Ministry.

Asked about Haniyeh's killing during a visit to Singapore, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said, "This is something we were not aware of or involved in."

In Manila, U.S. Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin said he still had hopes for a diplomatic solution on the Israeli-Lebanon border.

But international diplomats trying to defuse tensions were alarmed. One Western diplomat, whose country has worked to prevent an Israeli-Hezbollah escalation, said the double strikes in Beirut and Tehran have "almost killed" hopes for a Gaza ceasefire and could push West Asia into a "devastating regional war".

In a statement by his office, Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said Israel does not want war after its strike on the Hezbollah commander in Beirut, "but we are preparing for all possibilities". He did not mention the Haniyeh killing.

Cong. submits privilege notice against PM Modi

Mr. Channi then submitted his breach-of-privilege notice against Mr. Modi. In his letter, he said, "It is, however, shocking to note that these expunged portions had been tweeted by the Prime Minister on X along with whole speech video." Arguing that it was a violation of the laid-down rules and procedures of Parliament and a contempt of the House, Mr. Channi added, "I, therefore, contemplates to move a privilege motion against Prime Minister and request you to please admit my motion and permit me to move the same."

The issue continued to rage for most of the day even outside Parliament. Attacking Mr. Thakur, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told the media, "In Parliament, one doesn't ask about one's caste. He [Mr. Thakur] knows which caste he [Mr. Gandhi] belongs to. This was done purposely to insult him. The comment was immature but what was needed for the Prime Minister to tweet this speech? I condemn such things."

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh questioned why *Sansad TV*, which broadcasts the live proceedings from both Houses of Parliament, had uploaded the entire speech – including the expunged portions – on its website.

UPSC cancels IAS candidature of Khedkar

Earlier in July, Ms. Khedkar, posted as Assistant Collector in Pune, was transferred to Washim, Maharashtra, following complaints of misuse of power by a senior officer. She allegedly demanded special privileges such as a separate office, house, car, and staff, which she was not entitled to. It soon transpired that she allegedly submitted fake PwBD and OBC certificates to clear the civil services exam.

The UPSC also said that Ms. Khedkar had failed to respond to the show-cause notice issued to her on July 18 "for fraudulently availing attempts beyond the permissible limit provided in the Examination Rules by faking her identity".

"She was to submit her response by July 25. However, she requested for further time till August 4 so that she could gather the necessary documents for her response. The UPSC carefully considered the request and granted time till 3.30 p.m. of July 30. Despite extension in time allowed to her, she failed to submit her explanation within the prescribed time," the UPSC said.

"The UPSC is in the process of further strengthening the SOP to ensure that such a case does not recur in the future," it added.

Haniyeh killing: India maintains silence

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India maintained a studied silence after the political head of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was killed in Tehran in an early morning attack on Wednesday. Sources here indicated that the issue is sensitive because of India's close relations with both Iran and Israel and also because Iranian authorities are yet to reveal details of the incident that led to the death of Haniyeh.

Haniyeh's death came hours after he participated in the swearing-in of new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari was also present at the ceremony along with international dignitaries.

Officials here declined to comment if the presence of Haniyeh and figures from Hezbollah, the Houthis, and the Islamic Jihad posed a security concern for the Indian side, indicating that the guests were invited by the Government of Iran and therefore were not a concern for the Indian authorities.

SC to decide if States can take retrospective taxes on mines

Solicitor-General says allowing States to demand retrospective taxes will have cascading effects, which will ultimately impact common man; top court reserves order on query raised by Centre

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A nine-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved orders for a query raised by the Centre on whether its July 25 judgment upholding the power of State legislatures to tax mines and mineral rights would be applied retrospectively.

Appearing before the Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta urged the court to clarify that the judgment would only apply prospectively, that is, from July 25, and not prior.

Mr. Mehta said allowing States to demand retrospective taxes on mines and mineral rights would have "cascading effects", which would ultimately impact the common man.

He said industries, including public sector undertakings (PSUs) involved in the manufacture of steel, relied on mines.

The July 25 judgment freed States from restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance. REUTERS

The mines were leased out in public auctions based on the terms of the 2015 amendments made to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulations) Act of 1957. The bids were formulated according to the then-existing rates. Retrospective evaluation of tax would lead to a heavy load, which could crush these sectors.

"Lordships may consider stating that neither the State may demand any levy retrospectively nor the private parties or PSUs who have paid would seek any refund of the money," Mr. Mehta submitted.

Bankruptcy risk

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, submitted that past levy demands may be more than the net worth of many companies. Retrospective implementation of the judgment ran the risk of bankrupting these companies.

On July 25, the Constitution Bench, in a majority judgment of 8:1 had held that the power of State legislatures to tax mineral-bearing lands and quarries could not be limited by Parliament.

The judgment freed States from the restrictions of the Centre and is in tune with the federalist principles of governance.

"Fiscal federalism entails that the power of the States to levy taxes within the legislative domain carved out to them and subject to the limitations laid down by the Constitution must be secured from unconstitutional interference by Parliament," Chief Justice Chandrachud had laid down in the judgment.

The verdict noted how mineral-rich States like Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha continue to have per capita income below national averages and trail in economic development. The court had further held that royalty paid to States by mining lease holders was not tax.

Preeti Sudan appointed Chairperson of UPSC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Union Health Secretary Preeti Sudan was appointed Chairperson of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) after Manoj Soni resigned from the post earlier this month, according to an official order. She would take the oath of office on Thursday.

Ms. Sudan, currently a member of the UPSC, will take charge on Thursday and will have a tenure till April 29, 2025 or till further orders. She will turn 65 in April next year.

Ms. Sudan is only the second woman to head the UPSC since R.M. Bathew served as the chairperson from 1992 to 1996.

"The President has approved the appointment of Preeti Sudan, Member, UPSC for performing the duties of Chairman, UPSC with effect from August 1, 2024," a July 29 letter said.

The Hindu reported on July 19 that Mr. Soni resigned for "personal reasons," almost five years before his tenure ends in 2029.

Judiciary can direct the govt. to conduct audit of laws, says SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has upheld "the power, nay the duty" of the judiciary to direct the government to conduct a "performance audit" of its statutory laws to assess their actual impact on the ground.

A Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Aravind Kumar, in a judgment, said the court could direct the government to review the working of the statutes and audit their impact if, among other situations, there was demonstrable judicial data or other cogent material to prove that the laws have failed to ameliorate the conditions of their intended beneficiaries.

The judgment, delivered on July 30 but published on Wednesday, followed an appeal concerning the working of the Maharashtra Slum Areas (Improvement, Clearance and Redevelopment) Act, 1971, which has led to multiple litigation over the years. The court said the graph of the law was "worrisome" and requested the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court to constitute a Bench to initiate *suo motu* proceedings for reviewing the working of the statute and identify the cause of the problems.

Justice Narasimha, who wrote the judgment, said the government has a constitutional duty to ensure that the purpose and object of a statute is accomplished while implementing it. It has the additional duty to closely monitor the working of a statute.

At BJP-RSS meeting on Haryana poll, clarity sought on ticket for leaders' kin

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Office-bearers of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) held a five-hour meeting on Monday evening on the upcoming Assembly election in Haryana in order to synergise efforts after the recent difficulties that were seen in the relationship between the two organisations, and to get clarity on issues, including whether to give ticket to relatives of BJP leaders.

Staunch stand

The BJP and the RSS have taken a staunch stand against dynastic politics, but have always made exceptions in giving ticket, stating that the winnability criterion is also important.

In Haryana, the BJP is facing demands from a number of leaders seeking ticket for their relatives. Many of them are in a strong position in their local areas in an election that is likely to be closely contested.

Nayab Singh Saini

According to senior party sources, the meeting was attended by RSS *sarkaryavah* Arun Kumar; Chief Minister of Haryana Nayab Singh Saini; his predecessor and Union Minister M.L. Khattar; Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is the party's in-charge for the Haryana election; Lok Sabha member Biplab Deb; and BJP general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh.

"Narratives and organisational dexterity were discussed during the meeting, and how best to synergise between the RSS and BJP. Also, clarity was attempted to be created on how to deal with demands made by leaders for ticket for their kith and kin, as well as how to explain the same to the party and outside," a senior party source said.

Many contenders

Among party leaders seeking ticket for their relatives are Union Minister Rao Indrajeet Singh, who is seeking ticket for his daughter Arati Rao; MP Dharamveer, who wants ticket either for his brother or son; Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, whose son, Devendra Pal Chaudhary, is in the fray; senior Haryana leader Kuldeep Bishnoi, who needs to be accommodated, as does his son; former MP Ramesh Kaushik, who is seeking ticket for his brother Devinder Kaushik; and Assembly Speaker Gyanchand Gupta, who wants to field his nephew on BJP ticket from Panchkula.

Cohesive view

"This will be a closely fought election, and denying ticket to relatives of our leaders who are in a good position to win may not be the best strategy. Therefore, there has to be a cohesive view on the whole thing," the source said.

The RSS will have to be taken into confidence as the organisation plays a crucial role in managing the party's cadre and keeping the morale high.

Centre plans stricter norms for disability certificates; activists fear fresh hurdles

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The draft suggests that the time taken to process each application should be increased

In a bid to tighten the requirements for obtaining a disability certificate, the Union government on Wednesday published draft amendments to the Rules of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPwD Act) of 2016.

The proposed changes – including mandatory identity proof, medical authority involvement, and a longer process – come in the wake of the row over Puja Khedkar, a dismissed IAS probationer accused of faking her disability certificate, among other transgressions. Government sources told *The Hindu* that this controversy was among the factors considered while drafting the amendments.

The amended Rules will require people with disabilities to mandatorily submit proof of identity, a photo not older than six months, and an Aadhaar card. The draft amendments propose that only medical authorities be considered competent to receive and process applications for disability certificates, further suggesting that the time taken to process each application should be increased from one to three months.

Experts and activists in the disability sector said that these proposed amendments will not do much to tackle the menace of fake disability certificates, which they argued was a result of systemic corruption. Instead, they said, the potential new Rules will make it harder for genuine applicants to get through the system.

These amendments to the Rules governing the RPwD Act, 2016 were published by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in The Gazette of India as a draft and made public on Wednesday for objections and suggestions. Comments must be sent to Vineet Singhal, Director, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities in 30 days.

V. Muralidharan of the National Platform of the Rights of the Disabled told *The Hindu*, "These amendments would not help cut the corruption that leads to fake certificates, no amount of rules might help this. It will only make things unnecessarily complex and difficult for genuine applicants to obtain their disability certificates."

He added that the colour-coding of Unique Disability Identity (UDID) cards was another redundant proposal that will most likely add to hostility and harassment faced by people with disabilities.

India, China hold 30th round of border talks; both agree to uphold peace, tranquillity

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

India and China on Wednesday held the 30th meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) in New Delhi during which the discussion was "in-depth, constructive and forward-looking", and both sides agreed to maintain the momentum through established diplomatic and military channels, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said.

The talks come amid indications that the two countries are making efforts to resolve the standoff along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

"Further to discussions between the two Foreign Ministers in their recent meetings at Astana [in Kazakhstan] and Vientiane [in Laos], the two sides reviewed the current situation along the LAC with a view to finding an early resolution of the outstanding issues. Restoration of peace and tranquillity, and respect for the LAC are an essential basis for restoration of normalcy in bilateral relations," the MEA said in a statement. The 29th WMCC meeting was held on March 24 in Beijing.

Tough stance: Armoured vehicles of the Indian Army at a military camp in eastern Ladakh. AFP

Economic restrictions

Both sides agreed on the need to jointly uphold peace and tranquillity on the ground in the border areas in accordance with bilateral agreements and protocols reached between the two governments, the statement added.

This also comes amid speculation that the government is considering relaxing some of its economic restrictions on Chinese companies following the recommendations of the latest Economic Survey, which called for more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from China.

Kharge asks to expunge a comment by BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Taking umbrage to remarks by BJP MP Ghanshyam Tiwari labelling him a "political dynast", Congress president and the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge urged the Chair to expunge the comment. During an exchange with Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairperson Jagdeep Dhankhar, Mr. Kharge went on to say that he did not "wish to live for long in this environment".

"He made a comment regarding '*parivarvaad*'. I request that this should be expunged [from the records]," Mr. Kharge said.

Mr. Dhankar said he did not think the BJP leader had meant to convey anything wrong, but promised that he would examine the records.

Allegations on neglecting States are Opposition propaganda: Nirmala

The transfer of resources to the States is going unhindered, says the Union Finance Minister; she adds that the Narendra Modi-led government implemented the concept of cooperative federalism by giving due share to all States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Replying to the debate on the Union Budget in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, in which more than 80 MPs participated, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the transfer of resources to the States is going unhindered and the inferences that she mentioned just two States in the Budget was propaganda created by the INDIA bloc to mislead the people.

"If a State has not been mentioned in the speech, it does not mean there is no allocation for it," she said.

Comparing the allocation to various social sectors and the devolution of taxes to the States under the UPA and NDA regimes, she said the Narendra Modi-led government implemented the concept of cooperative federalism by giving due share to all States.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman speaks in the Rajya Sabha, in New Delhi on Wednesday. ANI

Ms. Sitharaman said it was wrong to calculate devolution based on gross tax receipts, and then allege that the Centre is devolving less than what is suggested by the Finance Commission. "The total resources proposed to be transferred to the States in 2024-25 are estimated at ₹22.91 lakh crore. This actually entails an increase of ₹2.49 lakh crore over 2023-24," she said.

Ms. Sitharaman said the capital expenditure too increased manifold during the last 10 years. The capital expenditure, she said, is estimated at ₹11.11 lakh crore. "This is the biggest ever allocation for capital expenditure and it shows an increase of about 17% over the revised estimates and provisional actuals of 2023-24," she said and added that during the 10 years of the UPA, it was ₹13.19 lakh crore. "Whereas during our tenure from 2014 to 2024, the allocation for capex has been ₹43.82 lakh crore from 2014-15 to 2023-24," she said.

Replying to the discussion on the Budget of Jammu and Kashmir, she said the financial condition of the Union Territory has improved in the past two years. Earlier practices of running 'hundis' and overdrafts from J&K Bank have been discontinued and the day-to-day cash management is much healthier than in the past, she said.

On the conduct of NEET for medical admission, she said the entrance examination has ensured cost-effective medical education for families.

On the Agnipath scheme, the Minister said the scheme will ensure that India has younger soldiers who are on the frontline. "And I don't think there is a need for us to unnecessarily worry that this is causing some kind of distortion. It is with the acceptance of the armed forces that it has been brought in," she added.

Modi govt. refuses to learn from its decline in LS polls, says Sonia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi

The Narendra Modi government continues to be "self-delusional" even as crores of families are "devastated by mounting unemployment and price rise", Sonia Gandhi, chairperson of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), said on Wednesday.

Addressing a meeting of party MPs in the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan (the old Parliament House), Ms. Gandhi said the Modi government had refused to learn lessons from its "significant decline" in the Lok Sabha election and was "persisting with their policy of dividing communities and spreading an atmosphere of fear and animosity".

The Congress leader also mentioned how the Centre had allowed the bureaucracy to participate in the activities of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Speaking of the upcoming Assembly elections in four States, Ms. Gandhi told her party colleagues that although the "*mahaul*" (atmosphere) favoured them, they should work unitedly and not be complacent or overconfident.

"I dare say that if we perform well, reflecting the trend that we witnessed in the Lok Sabha election, national politics will undergo a transformation," she said.

The meeting started with a moment of silence for the lives lost in the Wayanad landslide, and the deaths of three students preparing for the Union Public Service Commission's Civil Services Examination in Delhi.

The CPP chairperson said education had been amongst "the worst casualties" in the past years, and the way competitive exams were being conducted had "destroyed the faith of lakhs of youth and dealt their future a body blow". The professional character and autonomy of organisations, and even of Constitutional bodies such as the UPSC have been all but destroyed, Ms. Gandhi alleged.

Congratulating the Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses for their interventions, she noted that many Opposition MPs had brought out the Budget's inadequacies in addressing urgent economic and social challenges.

"Pressing demands of farmers and youth, in particular, have been ignored. Allocations in a number of vital sectors have not done justice to the tasks required to be fulfilled," she said.

Home Ministry, DoPT portals display order lifting curbs on RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) on Wednesday displayed on their websites, an official memorandum lifting restrictions on government officials being associated with the "Rashtriya Swayam Sewak Sangh (R.S.S.S)" for public "knowledge".

The move followed a direction by the Madhya Pradesh High Court on July 25 while disposing of a writ petition filed by Purushottam Gupta, a retired Central government employee, who had approached the court in September 2023 against the ban. The court said that it had taken the Union government "five decades to realise its mistake; to acknowledge that an internationally renowned organisation like Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh [RSS] was wrongly placed amongst the banned organisations of the country and that its removal therefrom is quintessential". It added, "Aspirations of many Central government employees of serving the country in many ways, therefore got diminished in these five decades because of this ban."

RSS has all the right to participate in developmental journey: Dhankhar

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar, during Question Hour on Wednesday, ruled that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is "an organisation that has a full constitutional right to participate in the developmental journey of the nation" and has "unimpeachable credentials".

The ruling came in response to remarks by Samajwadi Party's Ramji Lal Suman. While posing a supplementary question, to a query by Shiv Sena (UBT) MP on "poor handling of entrance exams by the National Testing Agency", Mr. Suman said, "For them [BJP] the only criterion to assess a person is whether he or she is from the RSS or not..."

Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, supporting Mr. Suman, said his allegation was correct and that the Chair should not intervene till the member violates a rule. Mr. Dhankhar retorted by saying, "The member was not transgressing rules, he was trampling the Constitution of India."

The Opposition, objecting to Mr. Dhankhar's remarks, staged a walkout.

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E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS ARE INVITED FROM ELIGIBLE BIDDERS HAVING EXPERIENCE IN SIMILAR NATURE OF WORK:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ MOOSE CONDUCTOR/24-25/02 Date: 01.08.2024	• Supply of 100 KMs ACSR Moose Conductor *(NIT 02)*. Bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 02.09.2024.**
NIT No.: CE(Procurement)/ WBSETCL/SST/2024-25/03 Date: 01.08.2024	• Supply of 21 nos. Station Service Transformers *(NIT 03)*. Bids shall be submitted online up to **04:00 P.M., 03.09.2024.**

Bid documents can be downloaded from 01.08.2024, 11:00 A.M.
Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T12876(3)/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : e-Tender No :18/2024-25/ SE/PHC/ALP/RC, **Jala Jeevan Mission -** WSS Ala, Puliyur, Budhanur, Pandanad, Mulakuzha Chengannur Municipality - Construction of OHSR and Pipeline Works in Zone 12.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19,518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 12-08-2024 02:00:pm, **Phone :** 0477-2237954
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-316-2024-25 PH circle, Alappuzha

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
VIDYUT SOUDHA :: VIJAYAWADA
APGENCO
NIT No. 610001649
APGENCO invites Online tenders for "NSRCPH (3X30MW) - Supply, fabrication, Erection, testing and commissioning of fixed wheel type vertical lift Penstock Service Gate, duly dismantling of damaged gate including repairs to grooves and embedded parts of Unit-III"
Schedule available date & time: from **14:00 Hrs** onwards **30.07.2024.**
Bid Submission closing date & time: Upto **15:00 Hrs** on **14.08.2024.**
For further details visit: **www.apgenco.gov.in** Phone: (0866) 2526411, 2526839.
DIPR 3102PP/CL, Dt.31/07/2024

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Building Organisation
FORM OF CONTRACT: LUMPSUM (Two Cover System)
Short Term E-TENDER NOTICE NO.11/TVM-CLE/2024-2025/Dated : 30.07.2024

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu E-Tenders are invited by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (Construction and Maintenance) Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 4, for the following work from the eligible contractors registered in Public Works Department of Government of Tamil Nadu, upto 3.00 p.m. as per server clock on 21.08.2024 under two cover system (Pre qualification and Price E-tender). The last date and time for submission of E-Tender document upto 3.00 p.m. as per server clock on 21.08.2024. The E-tender schedule can be download at free of cost and submit from **01.08.2024 to 21.08.2024 upto 3.00 p.m.** from the Govt. designated website (viz) **https://tntenders.gov.in** The Prequalification cover (Cover I) alone will be opened **on 21.08.2024 at 4.00 p.m.** by the Superintending Engineer, PWD., Buildings (C&M) Circle, Tiruvannamalai - 4, through online.

Sl No	Name of Work	Approximate Value of Work including GST (Rs.in Lakhs)	Amount of Earnest Money Deposit (in Rupees)	Period of Completion (including monsoon period)
1	Construction of New Collectorate and other Office Buildings in Master Plan Complex at Veeracholapuram in Kallakurichi District	12810.00	Rs.64,15,000/-	18 Months

Eligible Class of Contractor : Class-IA
The Earnest Money Deposit should be paid only through online. The Price Adjustment Clause is applicable for the above work. The date and time of opening of Price tender will be intimated to the Prequalified contractors separately through online.
Further details can be had from the web site: **https://tntenders.gov.in.**
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, PWD., (I/C)
BUILDINGS (C& M) CIRCLE, TIRUVANNAMALAI - 4
DIPR/2703/TENDER/2024

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SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institution)
Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bangalore - 560011. Ph: 080-26564516 Tele/Fax: 080-26565222
E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No: SGIT&O/ACD/FC/08/2024-25 Date: 30.07.2024

NOTIFICATION

Application are invited for Fellowship Programmes for the academic year 2024-25 in Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma and Orthopaedics, Bengaluru as per the guidelines and calendar of events issued by Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru vide Notification No: **RGUHS/MEDICAL/FELLOW/COE/2024-25, Dated: 13.06.2024.** The details are as here under :-

		Sl. No.	Subject	Duration in Months	Number of Admissions
1	Details, Duration and intake for the course	1	Sports Injury & Arthroscopy	18	04
		2	Arthroplasty	18	04
		3	Spine Surgery	18	04
		4	Advanced Orthopaedic Trauma	18	04
		5	Maxillofacial Trauma	18	04
		6	Ultrasound & Image Guided Advanced Nerve Blocks	12	04
2	Eligibility	Candidate with NMC/MCI Recognized Post Graduate Degree in concerned specialty. **Or** Candidates with NMC/MCI Recognized Post Graduate Diploma in concerned specialty with three years experience (Copies to be enclosed) **Or** DM/MCH/DNB in concerned specialty 1. For Maxillofacial Trauma qualification - required MDS DMFS/Oral Maxillofacial Surgery 2. For Ultrasound & Image Guided Advanced Nerve Blocks - qualification required is MD /DNB Anaesthesia			
3	Stipend	According to Government Notification			
4	Institutional / In-service candidates should send their applications through proper channel				
5	For application format visit website **www.sgito.org** apply with Bio-data and relevant certificates. The duly filled in application should reach through by Registered post or Inperson to this institute in scaled cover within Date: 07.08.2024. The candidate should super scribe on the envelope as **"Application for fellowship programme in the subject of _____ for the year 2024-25"**				
6	Application fee of Rs.4,000/- (for each subject) made by online payment to the following Account **Director, Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Bangalore - 560011**, **Account No - 10313054855, IFSC Code SBIN0004926, State Bank of India, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore** and online payment Receipt should enclose along with Application form.				
7	Date and Place of Examination	**13.08.2024, 02.30 pm to 03.30 pm at Examination Building, Library Block, 1st floor, Bangalore Medical College & Research Institute, Bengaluru - 560002**			
8	The selected In-service candidates shall execute a bond in Form No.19 appended to KCSR and other private candidates shall deposit their original marks cards. Degree certificates, (UG & PG), Experience Certificate etc. In case the candidates fails to complete or withdraw from the fellowship programme before joining the course during the course he/she shall pay a fine of Rs.10,000-00 and the entire stipend amount, if any, drawn in respect of any fellowship programme will have to be repaid.				
9	Course Fees Rs. 34,840/- + University fee (Non refundable)				

DIPR/CP/1193/SPAN COMMUNICATIONS/2024-25
SD/- DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL S.M.S. MEDICAL COLLEGE & CONTROLLER OF THE ATTACHED HOSPITALS, JAIPUR
No-F/MC/Store/2024-25/STORE-PROC/SMSMC-23/00101/2024 Dated:- 29/7/2024

Notice Inviting Bid

BID for various services at various destinations of SMS Medical College, Jaipur., are invited from interested bidders upto 20.08.2024 at 11:00 AM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state; and SMS Medical College, Jaipur department website.

UBN SMS24-25SSOB00115 to SMS24-25SSOB00122
DIPR/C/6819/2024 PRINCIPAL & CONTROLLER

IndianOil
Marketing Division **Southern Region**
Notification for Engagement of 400 Apprentices in Southern Region under the Apprentices Act 1961

Indian Oil, Marketing Division, Southern Region, as a measure of Skill Development Initiative for the Nation invites applications for Engagement of **400 Trade Apprentices (Trade Apprentice – ITI/Technician Apprentice- Diploma/Trade Apprentice /Graduate Apprentice)** for the year 2024-25 at its Locations in the States of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh & Telangana.

Full text of the Advertisement including eligibility criteria of age, qualification and details of stipend, relaxations, concessions, reservations, etc. will be hosted in our Corporate website https://www.iocl.com/apprenticeships from **02nd August 2024 @ 10:00 hrs.**

How to apply: Interested candidates meeting the prescribed eligibility criteria may apply through the above-mentioned website from **02nd August 2024 @ 10:00 hrs** onwards. Closing date for online submission of Application is **19th August 2024 @ 23:55 hrs.**

Any subsequent notification/amendment in the matter shall be notified in www.iocl.com only.

Note: The Corporation shall have no obligation to give regular employment to Apprentices. The Apprentices shall have no right to claim regular employment from the Corporation on the basis of this Apprenticeship at any point of time. This Apprenticeship shall not create any liability on IOCL for providing any job to the Apprentice.

Advertisement No.IOCL/MKTG/APPR/2024-25

Karnataka Urban Infrastructure Development and Finance Corporation Ltd.
Nagarabhivruddi Bhavan, #22, 17th 'F' Cross, Old Madras Road, Indiranagar 2nd Stage, Near BMTC Bus Depot, Bengaluru-560 038. Telephone No: 91-80-25196100, 25196124
Fax: 080-25196110 Website: www.kuidfc.com e-mail: info@kuidfc.com
No: KUIDFC/UWM/24/HUB/2024-25/06 Date: 29-07-2024

Short Term e-Tender Notification

KUIDFC invites tenders under NGT and SBM (U) -2.0 for below mentioned projects from the eligible Contractors. The tender document will be available on KPP portal of GoK **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Amount put to Tender (Incl GST) Rs. in Crore	Earnest Money Deposit Rs. in Lakhs
1	Construction of Upgradation of sewerage system for the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation (HDMC) under NGT Environmental Compensation fund on DBOT Model. **Call-2**	62.94	63.00

1) Tender Publish Date: **30.07.2024.** 2) Pre-bid meeting Date & Time: **05.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM.** 3) Last Date & Time for Bid submission: **20.08.2024 Time: 5.30 PM.** 4) Date & Time of Opening of Technical bid: **22.08.2024 Time:11.30 AM.** 5) Date & Time of Opening of Financial bid: **29.08.2024 Time: 11.30 AM.**
Interested bidders may view, download & upload the tenders only through KPP portal. Any further notification will be through KPP portal and KUIDFC official website only.
Sd/-
Task-Manager, Project Monitoring Unit,
UWM-KUIDFC, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1167/MAA/2024-25

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road,
Bengaluru - 560 002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in
No: BMCRI/PG/Fellow/87/2024-25 Dated: 31-07-2024

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited from NMC / MCI recognized MS / MD / DNB / MCh / Diploma Qualified candidates for Fellowship Programmes in **Various Subjects at BMC&RI, Bengaluru for the Academic Year 2024-25.**
The Last Date for Submission of Application is **08-08-2024** along with Application Fee of **Rs. 4,000/-** (for each subject) made on Online Payment to the following Account **Director cum Dean, BMCRI, Bengaluru Account No: 32021549335, IFSC Code: SBIN0070242, State Bank of India, TSP Branch, Bengaluru** and online Payment Receipt enclosed along with Application form.
The objective type (MCQ) Entrance examination will be conducted on **13-08-2024 at BMC&RI Examination Hall, First Floor near Library Block from 10.30 AM to 11.30 AM.**
For further information visit the Institution's Website: **https://bmcribengaluru.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Director cum Dean,
BMCRI, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/1188/Adverto/2024-25

INBRIEF

Delhi coaching centre deaths: High Court flays civic officials

Following the drowning of three Civil Services aspirants inside the basement of a coaching centre after heavy rain, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed civic authorities to clear all encroachments on drains in Old Rajinder Nagar by August 2. The court stressed the need for fixing accountability, stating, "If accountability is fixed, this will never get repeated." It added, "These incidents are happening every day. It's become a joke. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi just doesn't bother. Your officials are not held accountable. It seems to us that they believe there is no point following orders. There is more gain by not following the orders and the risk seems to be worth it."

Heavy rain causes flooding in U.P. Assembly complex

Heavy rain in Lucknow on Wednesday led to severe waterlogging with water even entering the Legislative Assembly complex from where Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had to be escorted through a different route. A video of the Chief Minister being evacuated from a different gate also went viral on social media showing the adverse condition of waterlogging inside the Assembly complex. Dozens of workers can also be seen collecting water in buckets and throwing it outside. Heavy rainfall lasting three hours led to waterlogging in many parts of Lucknow causing inconvenience to the residents, with people criticising the infrastructure.

Gadkari urges Nirmala to withdraw insurance GST

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari has written to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, requesting her to withdraw the 18% goods and services tax (GST) on life and medical insurance premiums.

In a letter dated July 28, Mr. Gadkari raised the concerns of the Nagpur Division Life Insurance Corporation Employees Union, which had submitted a memorandum to him regarding the issues of the insurance industry. He said, "Levying GST on life insurance premiums amounts to levying tax on the uncertainties of life."

Both life insurance and medical insurance premiums are subject to an 18% GST rate.

"Similarly, the 18 per cent GST on medical insurance premiums is proving to be a deterrent for the growth of this segment of business which is socially necessary. In view of the above, you are requested to consider the suggestion of withdrawal of GST on life and medical insurance premiums on priority as it becomes cumbersome for senior citizens as per rules with due verification," he wrote in his letter.

Railways forms panel to decide on working hours of loco pilots

High-level committee to review rest period and facilities for employees; move comes after a series of major train accidents across the country

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The Railways has constituted a high-level committee to decide on the working and rest hours of loco pilots and assistant loco pilots.

The move comes against the backdrop of a series of train accidents resulting in the deaths of several passengers and railway employees across the country. In many cases, the loco pilots were accused of violating safety rules and held responsible for the accidents.

The issue gained momentum after Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi met members of the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) in New Delhi and Sultanpur railway stations and assured them that he would take up their grievances, especially the poor facilities in locomotives and rest houses.

On Friday, the Railway Board issued orders constituting a high-level committee comprising the Principal Executive Director (Traffic), Additional Member (Staff) and Additional Member (Traction) to examine "the implementation and compliance of accepted recommendations of High Power Committee (HPC) with special focus on outstation rest, headquarters rest, periodical rest, working hours and compliance of Hours of Employment Rules (HOER)."

The committee to be headquartered in Delhi was asked to submit its report within one month. Besides, the Railway Board also instructed senior officers across its network to inspect locomotives and rest houses of loco running staff to check availability of basic amenities, sources in Southern Railway told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Looking into: Loco pilots have complained of poor infrastructure in locomotives and rest houses. GETTY IMAGES

MPs raise issue in Parliament

NEW DELHI
During the discussion on the Budget in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday, MPs raised concerns over the "rising number of rail accidents", and called for wider implementation of safety mechanisms and improved infrastructure.

Bill to replace Aircraft Act tabled in Lok Sabha amid protest

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

It intends to bring radio telephone operator restricted certificate test within the DGCA ambit

In what is likely to bring relief to aspiring pilots and other aviation personnel, the Civil Aviation Ministry has proposed in the new Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024 to bring the examination used to test the use of radio communication equipment on aircraft within the ambit of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

The Bill, which seeks to replace the the Aircraft Act of 1934, was tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

It was tabled by Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu amid protest by Kerala MP N.K. Premachandran, who questioned why the name of the statute was in Hindi alone. He said the Constitution mandated that Bills brought to Parliament should be in English.

"For people from South India, it is very difficult to even pronounce Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak. What is the logical reason behind this? I am questioning the legislative competence of the Bill," the MP said.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons states that the Bill is being introduced because the 90-year-old Aircraft Act has been amended several times and "a need is felt to address the ambiguities and confusion experienced by the stakeholders, to remove redundancies, to enable ease of doing business and to provide for manufacture and maintenance in the aviation sector".

The proposed legislation will bring the radio telephone operator restricted (RTR) certificate and licence from the Department of Telecom to the DGCA, and ease the process for pilots as they can secure all their certificates from one authority, a senior official of the Civil Aviation Ministry said. The exam is also conducted for aircraft maintenance engineers and flight despatchers.

It is an open secret in the industry that the RTR exam is the toughest to crack due to allegedly widespread corruption.

Aspiring pilots said that if the proposal came through, they would be able to appear for the RTR exam in any of the DGCA's 14 exam centres.

Five-year-old boy shoots schoolmate in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

A five-year-old boy shot at a Class 3 student with a revolver at a school in Supaul district of Bihar on Wednesday. The older child sustained injuries in his arm and is undergoing treatment at a hospital.

"I was on my way to the classroom when he took out a gun from his bag and fired at me. I ducked but the bullet injured my arm," the 10-year-old is heard saying in a video.

The police have taken the principal into custody and launched an investigation. They said the nursery student had gone to school with the gun hidden in his bag. "The incident took place after assembly session at 9 a.m.," said senior district police official Shaishav Yadav.

IAF's largest multilateral exercise to begin this month

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is all set to host its largest multilateral exercise, *Tarang Shakti*, in two phases in August and September. Eighteen countries, 10 of them with air assets, will join the exercise, which will see a total of 150 aircraft, both foreign and IAF, soar into the skies over Sulur and Jodhpur. The exercise will be a landmark event and has no particular nation or theme "in mind", Air Marshal A.P. Singh, Vice-Chief of the Air Staff, said on Wednesday.

"Invitations have been extended to 51 countries. Ten countries will be participating with assets and 18 as observers with one more country likely to join," Air Marshal Singh said while briefing the media. "The aim is to foster interoperability and share best practices and also to showcase indigenous defence industry."

A.P. Singh

Besides the observer countries, Germany, France, Spain, and the U.K. are scheduled to take part in Phase-1, while Phase-2 will see participation of Australia, Bangladesh, Greece, Singapore, the United Arab Emirates and the U.S.

Given the diverse participation and to cater to the requirements of friendly foreign countries, the IAF has decided to do it in two phases, the Vice-Chief explained. Several countries which are taking part in the multilateral exercise *Pitch Black* in Australia will join the exercise on their return leg.

Each phase of the exercise will see participation of 70-80 air assets. Phase-1 will be held from August 6-14 at Sulur in Tamil Nadu, and see participation of 32 foreign aircraft, Exercise Director Air Vice-Marshal Rajat Mohan said. Similarly, Phase-2, to be held from September 1-14 at Jodhpur, will see participation of 27 fighters, two refuelling aircraft, two airborne early warning aircraft, and four C-130 Special Forces aircraft from foreign countries, Phase-2 Director Air Commodore S.K. Taliyan said. The IAF will field over 40 aircraft each in both the phases. The Indian Navy will participate in Phase-1 with its MiG-29K carrier borne fighters.

Ransomware attack halts services at small banks

Press Trust of India
AHMEDABAD/MUMBAI

Customers of around 300 small-sized lenders across the country have not been able to access payments services such as withdrawing cash at ATMs or using UPI due to a ransomware attack at technology service provider (TSP) C-Edge Technologies.

The impact was felt by customers of cooperative banks and regional rural banks which depend on C-Edge, a joint venture between the SBI and TCS, officials said. Other banking services were normal, they said. The issues are being faced for the past two days after the discovery of a breach of the system at C-Edge, they said, adding that precautions had to be taken to protect the larger payments system.

In 3 years, power cuts in India will rise, says report

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India's rising electricity needs will likely be accompanied by increasing evening power cuts by 2027 because of insufficient renewable energy-powered back-up, says a research report from the India Energy and Climate Centre, University of California (Berkley).

This scenario is likely even if all the planned coal plants and thermal power assets were to be fully functional by that year.

India has an installed electric capacity of 446 GW, with 211 GW coming in from coal, 195 GW from renewable energy sources, and the rest from gas and nuclear energy.

However not all of this capacity is available all the time. Therefore, a heatwave that lasts all day and whose impact can linger through the night will elicit high electricity demand even at night from air conditioners. Unlike in the day when spikes in demand can be met by solar energy, this is not possible at night.

On May 30, peak power demand touched 250 GW at 3 p.m. and estimates are that it hovered around 225 GW at night, suggesting that this demand cannot be met by coal, India's most reliable power (or firm power) source, on its own.

The way out, said the researchers associated with the study, would be to have more utility-scale solar plants alongside battery storage, which can store the solar energy made during the day. Moreover solar plants and batteries can be deployed much faster than coal and hydropower plants.

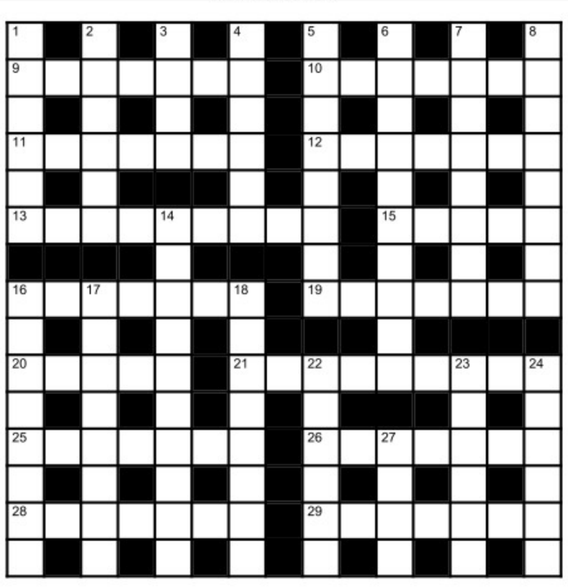
Power source: India has an installed electric capacity of 446 GW, with 211 GW coming in from coal. FILE PHOTO

TH CROSSWORD + 14242

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Rest may be found in a reference book briefly on field strength (7)
10 Fun city, loves to host Republican state (7)
11 Beginning with one point rise (7)
12 Abnormal reduction, gets through (7)
13 Her warnings were treated as canards (9)
15 Board game involving some lethal manoeuvres (5)
16 A good time to go in and surprise (7)
19 Candidate gets work, for there is a measure of uncertainty (7)
20 Vivacious girl - one comes in after nine in private banks (5)
21 Strike a guy and there ends the joke (9)
25 Distiller must apply to get in (7)
26 Replenish supply, he goes to get a beer (7)
28 Girl with International protection in parts of Northern Israel (7)
29 Entry in general is for a beneficiary (7)

Down

1 Charlie can go up for a drink (6)
2 Takes it easy, that said, takes it by force (6)
3 Worst years, some of them painful (4)
4 It's indeed rough, polished (6)
5 Valiant to confront thick heavy set character (8)
6 Split? Problem is the temporary tie-up (5,5)
7 Toiling at sea, retrieves a sunken design (8)
8 Herb's my co-star, perhaps (8)
14 A beautiful fish, less than right in a way (5,5)
16 Current map drawn and two times overlapped (8)
17 Turn left and exit - used for storage of information (4,4)
18 Sent away? Left in the middle of work (8)
22 Bomb, one picked up by hand (6)
23 Coal if left out will catch fire (6)
24 Won a point and Arden lost (6)
27 Blocks head of government entering house of a star (4)

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

P		N		S				R		S		C		S
I		D	E	A	L			E	L	E	C	T	R	O	D	E
C		C		A		V		S		I		X		S
N	O	T	A	B	L	E		O	S	M	O	S	I	S
I		A				N		U		U		W		I
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R		L	L	A	N	O
				U				C		A		I		N
D	E	P	I	C	T	S		E	X	T	E	N	D	S
I		R		A		E				E				
A	R	I	E	L		T	H	R	E	S	H	O	L	D
G		N		Y		A		A				R		O
R	E	C	I	P	E	S		P	E	L	I	C	A	N
A		E		T		I		I		A		H		K
M	I	S	G	U	I	D	E	D		K	N	I	F	E
S		S		S		E				E		D		Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	5	2	1	9	8	7	3	6
7	3	1	4	6	2	9	5	8
9	6	8	7	3	5	2	1	4
8	2	6	3	4	9	1	7	5
5	9	3	8	7	1	6	4	2
1	4	7	2	5	6	8	9	3
6	1	9	5	2	4	3	8	7
3	8	4	6	1	7	5	2	9
2	7	5	9	8	3	4	6	1

FAITH

Sri Vaikuntha, for eternal joy

A person has to find a way to attain every goal of his. Cows go in search of pastures, because grass is their food. Lions go in search of prey. Devas wanted nectar and got it when the ocean was churned. Human beings need to work for their upkeep. But our occupations are to do with sustenance of the body. Is the body all there is to a human being? We identify ourselves by the names given to us. The name is given to the body that an *atma* inhabits. But the body is not what we call "I", said Kazhiyur B. Devarajan in a discourse.

Our sense organs or the brain or *manas* do not constitute "I". It is the imperishable *atma* which is important. The *atma* has *ananda* and *jnana*. What gives *ananda* (joy)? A child has pleasure in playing with a toy. That is not eternal joy. The child will soon tire of the toy, and seek something else. The old toy no longer pleases it. So, such pleasures cannot be termed eternal joy. At different stages in our lives, different things interest us. We can experience joy without a break only in Sri Vaikuntha. If something gave us permanent happiness, why would we move away from it? But we do move away from a lot of things we once enjoyed. We no longer find them appealing. One must aspire to reach Sri Vaikuntha to serve Him there. All *atmas* are Lord Narayana's *dasas*, and must serve Him gladly.

INBRIEF

M&M Q1 consolidated net profit drops 6% to ₹3,283 cr.

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. reported first-quarter consolidated net profit declined 6% to ₹3,283 crore from ₹3,508 crore in the year-earlier period. Consolidated revenue for the quarter ended June 30 increased 10% to ₹37,218 crore from the year-earlier period. On a standalone basis, M&M reported a 5% drop in net profit to ₹2,613 crore from the year earlier. Auto business reported 14% growth in sales at 2.11,550 units. Tractor sales increased 5% to 1,20,492 units.

Ambuja Cements Q1 net profit declines to ₹789.63 crore

Adani Group firm Ambuja Cements Ltd. on Wednesday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹789.63 crore for the first quarter ended June 2024. The company had reported a net profit of ₹1,135.46 crore in the April-June period a year earlier, according to a regulatory filing by Ambuja Cements Ltd. (ACL). Revenue from operations was at ₹8,311.48 crore during the June quarter compared with ₹8,712.90 crore in the corresponding period last fiscal. PTI

BHEL Q1 consolidated net loss widens to ₹211.4 crore

State-owned BHEL on Wednesday reported the widening of its consolidated net loss to ₹211.40 crore for the June quarter, on account of higher expenses. BHEL had clocked ₹204.70 crore loss for the April-June period of the preceding 2023-24 fiscal, the company said in an exchange filing. The company's total income rose to ₹5,581.78 crore from ₹5,117.20 crore in the year-earlier quarter. Expenses stood at ₹5,874.98 crore as against ₹5,409.47 crore a year earlier. PTI

June core sector growth slows to 4%

Most sectors, barring coal, record sharp slide in output growth; steel production growth slides to 27-month low, while expansion in natural gas output dips to a 13-month-low pace; coal production expands by 14.8%, the fastest in 8 months

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Growth in India's eight core sectors slipped to a 20-month low of 4% in June from an upgraded 6.4% rise in May, with most sectors barring coal recording a sharp slide in output growth, steel production at a 7-month low, and refinery products slipping into contraction for first time in five months.

Coal output grew 14.8%, the fastest pace in eight months, with production levels at a three-month high. However, electricity generation slipped to a four-month low of 7.7% in June, with output 3.6% below May's all-time high levels, amid a heat wave in many parts of the country.

Cement, steel tepid

Cement production recovered mildly to rise 1.9% after two months of contraction while steel production grew just 2.7%, the slowest in 27 months. The deceleration in the two sectors could be linked to a slowdown in public capital expenditure on account of the general election.

Natural gas production grew 3.3%, the slowest pace in 13 months while fertilizer output recovered after five months of contraction to log 2.4% uptick. However, production levels of refinery products slid 1.5%, while contraction in crude oil deepened to 2.6% from 1.1% in May.

'IIP may decelerate'

The Index of Core Industries, which constitutes a little more than 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), was 3.2% below May's level. Industrial output had grown at a seven-month high pace of 5.9% in May but is expected to decelerate in June.

"With the dip in the core sector growth, we expect the IIP to post a rise of 3.5% to 5% in June," observed Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA.

Lower public capex

"The decline in core sectors' growth during June could possibly be attributed to lower spending on Government capex before the General Elections and the slowdown in construction activity which has led to a temporary slack in demand for steel and cement," said Suman Chowdhury, chief economist and head of research at Acuité Ratings & Research.

Slackening pace

Growth in India's 8 core sectors slid to a 20-month low from an upgraded 6.4% rise in May

- Cement production recovered to rise 1.9%, while steel output rose by just 2.7%
- Deceleration in the 2 sectors likely on slack public capex due to polls

- Electricity generation growth slowed to a four-month low of 7.7%

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,741	0.35
US Dollar	83.72	0.01
Gold	71,950	0.48
Brent oil	80.70	2.34

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3169.40	40.65
Adani Ports	1569.90	23.65
Apollo Hosp	6615.30	-25.70
Asian Paints	3084.45	79.40
Axis Bank	1166.10	-3.90
Bajaj Auto	9664.20	99.85
Bajaj Finserv	1651.65	9.00
Bajaj Finance	6806.95	-16.65
Bharti Airtel	1491.55	21.20
BPCL	350.05	1.85
Britannia Ind	5784.45	-57.75
Cipla	1544.30	15.40
Coal India	522.20	2.85
Divis Lab	4923.20	10.85
Dr Reddys Lab	6750.50	-53.65
Eicher Motors	4962.70	10.85
Grasim Ind	2776.75	-14.15
HCL Tech	1642.60	12.35
HDFC Bank	1615.75	0.20
HDFC Life	715.50	18.30
Hero MotoCorp	5488.45	44.15
Hindalco	669.60	9.10
Hind Unilever	2705.65	14.25
ICICI Bank	1214.90	5.45
IndusInd Bank	1427.80	-1.90
Infosys	1868.25	-8.90
ITC	495.35	5.45
JSW Steel	928.25	26.15
Kotak Bank	1807.90	21.80
L&T	3815.00	30.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5658.15	-14.35
M&M	2907.80	-14.30
Maruti Suzuki	13115.80	242.15
NestleIndia	2456.35	-1.30
NTPC	416.00	9.05
ONGC	334.20	2.30
PowerGrid Corp	348.20	-1.60
Reliance Ind	3010.85	-15.45
SBI Life	1753.65	32.60
State Bank	872.40	-0.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2931.95	19.90
Sun Pharma	1719.35	17.75
TataConsumerProduct	1188.95	-5.95
Tata Motors	1156.65	-5.20
Tata Steel	165.33	1.26
TCS	4385.35	20.00
Tech Mahindra	1554.40	16.35
Titan	3458.95	-9.30
UltraTech Cement	11887.20	80.75
Wipro	522.00	0.50

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 31

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.52	83.84
Euro	90.49	90.84
British Pound	107.25	107.66
Japanese Yen (100)	55.48	55.70
Chinese Yuan	11.57	11.61
Swiss Franc	94.84	95.21
Singapore Dollar	62.40	62.65
Canadian Dollar	60.36	60.60
Malaysian Ringitt	18.19	18.27
Australian Dollar	54.31	54.52

Source:Indian Bank

MSIL Q1 net surges 47% to ₹3,650 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. (MSIL) said first-quarter net profit surged 47% to ₹3,649.9 crore, from ₹2,485.1 crore in the year-earlier period. "This was broadly on account of cost reduction efforts, favourable commodity prices and foreign exchange," the carmaker said in a statement.

During the quarter, MSIL registered net sales of ₹33,875.3 crore, as against ₹30,845.2 crore in the same period last year.

For the quarter ended June 30, 2024, the company sold a total of 5,21,868 vehicles, an increase of 4.8% from the corresponding period last year.

The sales in the domestic market stood at 4,51,308 units, up 3.8% over the year-earlier period. Export sales were at 70,560 units, a growth of 11.6% year-on-year.

'April-June fiscal deficit stands at 8.1% of FY25 target'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit for the first quarter of FY25 was ₹1.36 trillion, or 8.1% of the estimate for the whole year, government data showed.

Net tax receipts were ₹5.5 trillion, or 21% of the annual target compared with ₹4.34 trillion in the same period last year.

Total government expenditure was ₹9.7 trillion, or about 20.4% of the annual goal, lower than the ₹10.51 trillion a year earlier.

BoB Q1 net profit rises 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bank of Baroda reported first-quarter standalone net profit grew 9.5% to ₹4,458 crore from the year-earlier period, driven by lower credit cost.

Net interest income (NII) rose 5% year-on-year (YoY) to ₹11,600 crore, the bank said in a filing. Net interest margin (NIM) stood at 3.18% in Q1 FY25, the lender added.

"The focus in the quarter was on the liability management side," MD & CEO Debadatta Chand said in a conference call. "We protected the margins through liability management and we had control on the cost of deposits [sequentially]," he added.

Return on assets (ROA) during the quarter ended June 30, 2024 remained consistently above 1% for 8 quarters and stood at 1.13% for Q1 FY25, he added.

SFL Q1 standalone net rises 17% to ₹132 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Arathi Krishna

Sundram Fasteners Ltd. (SFL) reported first-quarter standalone net profit rose almost 17% year-on-year to ₹132 crore, helped by robust export performance, stable commodity prices and a favourable product mix.

The company reported its highest-ever quarterly revenue from operations of ₹1,310 crore (₹1,217 crore), of which domestic sales accounted for ₹856 crore (₹824 crore). Export sales grew by 21.5% to ₹423 crore, SFL said in a statement.

Consolidated revenue from operations rose to a record ₹1,498 crore, while consolidated net profit grew by 11% to ₹143 crore.

"We have commenced the FY25 with strong numbers and are pleased to report highest-ever revenue from operations and profit before tax, demonstrating the resilience of our business model and the strong demand for our products," said MD Arathi Krishna.

"We remain committed to delivering value to our stakeholders and driving sustainable growth," Ms. Krishna added.

Taxmen slap ₹32,403-crore GST notice on Infosys

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

GST authorities have slapped a ₹32,403-crore notice on Infosys for services availed by the firm from its overseas branches for 5 years starting 2017.

Infosys, in a stock exchange filing, called the notice a 'pre-showcause' notice and said it believed the GST was not applicable on these expenses.

Infosys argued that GST payments are eligible for credit or refund against export of IT services. "Infosys has paid all its GST dues and is fully in compliance with the central and state regulations on this matter," it contended.

RBI proposes regulation for safer digital payments

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a draft circular proposing an Alternative Factor Authentication for all transactions to boost digital-payment security.

As per the draft, an additional factor of authentication was mandatory, must be robust and one of them dynamically created, that is a factor is generated and can be used only once. In addition, the banking regulator also said the factor should be determined by a host of parameters, including a risk profile of the customer and transaction value, among others. The RBI has also mandated compulsory customer consent before a new factor of authentication in addition to choice to withdraw consent and de-register.

Contactless cards with a value lower than ₹5,000 per transaction, insurance premium, credit card payments above ₹1 lakh and other categories up to ₹15,000 are exempted.

The RBI also released another draft circular proposing due diligence to be undertaken by banks to verify Aadhar-enabled Payment System (AePS) touchpoint operators.

The notification is as per RBI's Know Your Customer Master Direction 2016. The RBI proposed KYC updation be carried out for operators who had not undertaken any financial transaction for six months straight, before further enabling the operator. Also, the operators must be monitored on an ongoing basis by banks that acquired them and all agents must adhere to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) regulations.

Ind-Ra raises FY25 growth forecast to 7.5% on Budget

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

India Ratings upgraded India's FY25 GDP growth projection to 7.5% from an earlier estimate of 7.1%, citing growth momentum set in motion by announcements in the Union Budget. The revised number exceeds RBI's expectation of 7.2% for the fiscal.

The agency cited Budget announcements on spending on agriculture and rural economy and MSMEs for boosting demand. "Ind-Ra expects private final consumption expenditure to grow 7.4% yoy in FY25 (FY24: 4%), a 3-year high" said India Ratings.

Average cost of data breach hit all-time high of ₹195 mn in 2024: IBM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Business email compromise was the costliest at an average total cost of ₹215 mn per breach

The average cost of a data breach in India reached an all-time high of ₹195 million in 2024, IBM reported in its annual Cost of a Data Breach Report on Tuesday.

The most common initial attack types in India were phishing and stolen or compromised credentials, accounting for 18% of incidents each, followed by cloud misconfiguration (12%). Business email compromise was the costliest root cause at an average total cost of ₹215 million per breach, followed by social engineering (₹213 million) and phishing (₹209 million) as the next highest costs, IBM said in the report. According to the report, breach costs jumped 39% since 2020 and 9% from the prior year, as breaches grow more disruptive and further expand demands on cyber teams.

Lost business and notification costs drove the year-over-year cost spike in India, as the collateral damage from data breaches had only intensified.

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Email: investorshelpdesk@sfl.co.in | Website: www.sundram.com

STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2024

(₹ in Crores)

Sl. No.	Particulars	Standalone			Consolidated		
		Quarter ended		Year ended	Quarter ended		Year ended
		30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024	30.06.2024	30.06.2023	31.03.2024
		(Unaudited)		(Audited)	(Unaudited)		(Audited)
1	Total Revenue from Operations	1,310.33	1,216.95	4,905.65	1,497.67	1,410.76	5,666.31
2	Net Profit for the period (before tax and exceptional items)	177.19	150.86	639.07	191.61	169.39	695.54
3	Net Profit for the period (before tax)	177.19	150.86	639.07	191.61	169.39	695.54
4	Net Profit for the period (after tax)	131.64	112.78	479.71	142.69	128.74	525.64
5	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	134.39	123.28	493.17	145.60	127.34	529.43
6	Equity Share Capital (Face Value of Re 1 each fully paid up)	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01	21.01
7	Earnings Per Share (EPS) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Face value of Re 1/- each) (not annualised) (in Rs.)						
	(a) Basic	6.26	5.37	22.83*	6.75	6.07	24.83*
	(b) Diluted	6.26	5.37	22.83*	6.75	6.07	24.83*

* Annualised

Notes:

1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of the standalone and consolidated financial results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites, www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com and on the Company's website www.sundram.com.

2 The Statutory Auditors have carried out a limited review for the quarter ended June 30, 2024 and have issued an unmodified report thereon.

For Sundram Fasteners Limited

Suresh Krishna
Chairman

Place : Chennai
Date : July 31, 2024

BAGHDAD

U.S. forces carry out 'defensive' air strike, killing four in Iraq

REUTERS

U.S. forces carried out a "defensive" air strike on combatants attempting to launch drones deemed a threat to American and allied troops. The strike — which left four dead — was the first by U.S. troops in Iraq since February, when it killed a pro-Iran commander involved in attacks on the country's troops. AFP

ISLAMABAD

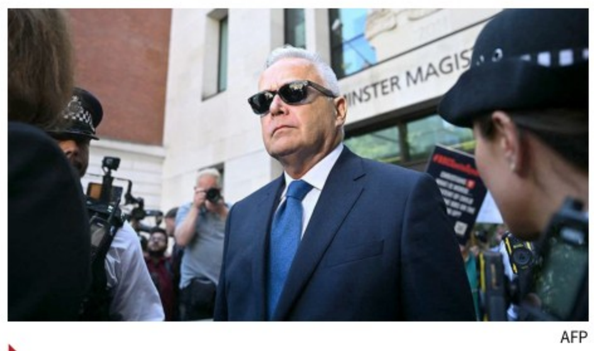
Former Pakistan PM Imran Khan ready to hold talks with military

AFP

Pakistan's jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan said his PTI party is ready to hold "conditional negotiations" with the country's powerful military and has appointed a representative for the talks. "We will hold conditional negotiations if the military leadership appoints its representative," Mr. Khan wrote on X. REUTERS

LONDON

Ex-BBC anchor Edwards pleads guilty in indecent child image case

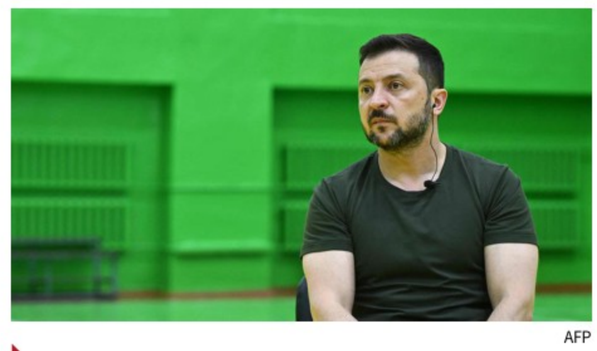


AFP

Former BBC news anchor Huw Edwards pleaded guilty on Wednesday to three counts of making indecent images of children. The 62-year-old, who resigned from the BBC in April on "medical advice", six months after he was arrested, faces a maximum prison sentence of 10 years and a minimum of 12 months. AFP

RIVNE

'Whole world' wants Russia at next peace summit, says Zelenskyy



AFP

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the "whole world", including Ukraine, wants Russia to participate at a second summit on ending the conflict between the neighbours. "The majority of the world today says that Russia must be represented at the second summit, otherwise we will not achieve meaningful results," he said. AFP

What does Haniyeh's death mean for Israel and Iran

By killing the Hamas leader, Israel has dealt a blow to both the militant group and the Gaza ceasefire talks; and by carrying out the attack in Tehran, where Haniyeh was a guest, Tel Aviv has both embarrassed the Islamic Republic and exposed its intelligence and security vulnerabilities; Iran, which attacked Israel in April, has vowed revenge

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

On July 20, Israel carried out a massive air strike on Hodeidah, the Red Sea port city in Yemen, that is controlled by the Houthi militia, in response to a drone attack by the Houthis that had hit Tel Aviv. On July 30, Israel carried out an air strike in Lebanon's capital Beirut, targeting Fuad Shukr , a top commander of Hezbollah, three days after a rocket attack killed 12 young people in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. On the same day, Ismail Haniyeh, the political chief of Hamas, was killed at his residence in Tehran.

Haniyeh, who was living in exile in Qatar, travelled to Iran to attend the inauguration of Masoud Pezeshkian, the Islamic Republic's new President. In Majlis, Iran's parliament, Haniyeh hugged Mr. Pezeshkian, while lawmakers chanted "Death to Israel". Before dawn, Haniyeh was killed. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and Hamas have blamed Israel for the killing. The common factor that connects all three groups – Yemen's Houthis (Shia), Lebanon's Hezbollah (Shia), and Palestine's Hamas (Sunni) – is Iran. By targeting all three in a matter of days, Israel has dealt a blow to Iran's influence in West Asia. Of these three strikes, the killing of Haniyeh would particularly be seen as a victory by the Israelis.

After the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas in Israel, in which some 1,200 people were killed, the Israelis vowed that they would target all Hamas leaders.

Haniyeh was safe while he was in Qatar, an American ally. But when he went to Iran, his biggest backer, the Israelis went after him.

In memoriam: Hamas members hold a poster of Ismail Haniyeh at a protest to condemn his killing in Lebanon on Wednesday. AP

Death by Israel

Haniyeh was arguably the most powerful leader of Hamas after Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz al-Rantisi. The wheelchair-bound, half-blind Yassin, the spiritual and organisational founder of Hamas, was killed by an Israeli missile in March 2004. Rantisi, who was appointed his successor, was also killed by the Israelis within a month. Haniyeh, who was the head of the office of Sheikh Yassin, emerged to occupy the vacuum left by the departure of the two leaders.

He played a key role in mainstreaming Hamas, which was till then seen as a radical resistance militia, among the Palestinians. In 2006, Haniyeh led the group to victory in parliamentary elections in the West Bank and Gaza. As the leader of the Hamas parliamentary party, Haniyeh was invited to form the government in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

But he faced two challenges. One, the PA's international backers, mainly in the West, were not ready to accept a government run by Hamas. Two, Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas and his Fatah party were unhappy with a Hamas Prime Minister. Mr. Abbas dissolved the Hamas government. This led to civil strife between the two Palestinian factions, with Fatah expelling Hamas from the West Bank and Hamas capturing Gaza and expelling Fatah from the enclave.

Haniyeh would lead the Hamas government in Gaza before stepping aside in 2017 and elevating Yahya Sinwar. In the same year, Haniyeh relocated to Doha, while Sinwar and Mohammed Deif, the military chief of Hamas, ran Gaza from within the enclave. Ever since, Haniyeh had been the face of Hamas's regional and international presence. By killing him, Israel has dealt a blow to both the militant group and the Gaza ceasefire talks. Will Hamas now accept a hostage deal with Israel which killed its top leader?

And by killing Haniyeh in Iran, where he was a guest, Israel has both embarrassed Iran and exposed its intelligence and security vulnerabilities.

Iran's next move

In April, when Israel bombed the Iranian embassy complex in Damascus, Tehran launched a massive missile and drone attack towards Israel. Iran was sending a clear message to the Israelis – attacks on Iranian officers would not go unpunished. Ever since, Israel has not targeted Iranian officers or its missions. But now Israel is slowly changing the rules again.

By carrying out back-to-back attacks against three Iran-aligned militias, Israel is ramping up pressure on the Islamic Republic. And the assassination of Haniyeh also showed Israel's capabilities deep inside Iran. Iran retaliated in April when its embassy complex in Syria was attacked. Now, its sovereignty has been breached. Can Tehran afford not to retaliate this time? Highly unlikely.

The fact that the IRGC blamed Israel for the attack itself is indicative that Iran would retaliate. Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has also vowed revenge. Tensions on Israel's northern border are already high with Hezbollah's attacks. What is to be seen is what Iran and Hezbollah are going to do and what Israel would do in response. West Asia is dangerously close to an all-out war.

Body of slain Hezbollah commander found

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

The body of top Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr was recovered on Wednesday from the rubble of an Israeli strike in south Beirut, a source close to the group said, as fears mounted of a wider war.

The raid on the Beirut suburb, an overcrowded residential area that is also a Hezbollah bastion, killed five civilians – three women and two children.

The source, who requested anonymity, said "Shukr's body has been found under the rubble of the targeted building," after Israel's military said it had killed the commander on Tuesday.

The Israeli military said its strike had "eliminated" Shukr, who it blamed for carrying out a weekend rocket attack on the annexed Golan Heights that killed 12 children in a Druze Arab town.

Junta extends state of emergency by six months in Myanmar

Agence France-Presse
YANGON

The extension is 'to prepare ballots' for the election the junta has promised to hold possibly in 2025

Myanmar's junta on Wednesday extended the state of emergency by six months, again delaying fresh polls it has promised to hold as it battles opposition to its coup.

The Southeast Asian nation has been in turmoil since the February 2021 coup which ended a 10-year experiment with democracy and sparked mass protests and a crackdown on dissent.

String of losses

Three-and-a-half years later, the junta is struggling to crush widespread armed opposition and recently suffered a series of stunning losses to an alliance of ethnic minority armed groups.

The junta had been unable to hold fresh polls as planned following an initial two year state of emergency "due to the terrorist acts" by its opponents, broadcaster MRTV reported.

Junta chief Min Aung Hlaing had proposed the current extension "in order to prepare valid and accurate ballots" for the election the junta has promised to hold, possibly in 2025.

Venezuelans persist with protests a day after 12 died

Agence Fance-Presse
CARACAS

Thousands of Venezuelans gathered on Tuesday in a peaceful show of opposition support a day after 12 persons died and hundreds were arrested during protests against President Nicolas Maduro's disputed presidential election victory.

They chanted "Freedom! Freedom!" and "We are not afraid!" at a mass rally in the capital Caracas, where opposition leaders insisted they had the numbers for a convincing victory.

International calls mounted for the Maduro-aligned National Electoral Council (CNE) to release a detailed vote breakdown to back its awarding of Sunday's election to him.

Unrelenting spirit: The police arrest an opponent of Nicolas Maduro taking part in a demonstration in Caracas on Tuesday. AFP

Mr. Maduro said the opposition would be held responsible for "criminal violence... the wounded, the dead, the destruction" associated with protests.

The Foro Penal human rights NGO said at least 11 persons – two of them minors – had died in what its head Alfredo Romero described as "a crisis of human rights."

Dozens more were injured, and at least 177 arrested, he said, while authorities reported more than 700 arrests.

Security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets on Monday at protesters who claimed the election was stolen and flooded the streets.

Bangladeshis protest authorities' excessive use of force

Agencies
DHAKA

The police in Bangladesh fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse people who were demonstrating on Wednesday against the excessive use of force by authorities during protests earlier in July that left at least 150 dead.

The unrest is the biggest test facing Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, 76, since she won a fourth term in January elections boycotted by the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which were also marred by deadly protests.

Escalating situation: People scuffle with security personnel outside the High Court building in Dhaka on Wednesday. AFP

Ms. Hasina on Wednesday sought cooperation from the United Nations and other international organisations to conduct a proper investigation into the nationwide violence during the anti-quota agitation.

"We are seeking UN and other international organisations' cooperation for a fair investigation into the matter," Ms. Hasina said.

"Because I have no negligence to this end," she was quoted as saying by the *Dhaka Tribune* newspaper.

Police said they used force on Wednesday when people in the northeastern district of Sylhet broke through barricades to march towards for the courts.

"We requested the protesters to move from the road, but they did not listen and instead attacked the police, forcing us to disperse them with tear gas and stun grenades," said regional deputy commissioner Azbahar Ali Sheikh.

Police and protesters scuffled in Dhaka and the southern port city of Chittagong.

Ten injured

At least 10 persons, including four journalists, were injured in Barishal district, where police used batons to disperse protesters.

Police detained at least seven students in Dhaka near the high court, where lawyers and university teachers joined the demonstrators.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of The Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009.

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invite tenders in Two Stage Tender System from Eligible Contractors for the below mentioned works.

Sl No.	Name of Work	Amount Put to Tender / EMD
	No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/1892/2024-25	**Date:29.07.2024**
1.	Providing and laying of 200mm dia DI and 100mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Govindapura road Veerannapalya service road junction to HBR 1st main service road (ORR) HBR service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division.	Rs. 315.14 lakhs / Rs. 5.58 lakhs
2.	Providing and laying of 450mm dia MS & 300mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Govindapura road Veerannapalya service road junction to HBR 1st main service road (ORR) HBR service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division.	Rs. 370.74 lakhs / Rs. 6.56 lakhs
3.	Providing and laying of 450mm dia MS, 300mm dia DI water supply line at Nagawara main road from ORR to Shampur road junction pertaining to AEE(E)-2-1 sub division	Rs. 296.03 lakhs / Rs. 5.23 lakhs
4.	Providing and laying of 200mm dia DI & 100mm dia DI water supply line pertaining to Kammanahalli road: 10C flyover to ORR Service station of AEE(E)-2-1 sub division	Rs. 167.09 lakhs / Rs. 2.95 lakhs
5.	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC sewer line from Hennur junction ORR to Lingarajapura flyover pertaining to Lingarajapura S/s of AEE(E)-2- 2 sub division	Rs. 113.31 lakhs / Rs. 2.01 lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **16.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on : **18.08.2024 after 11.00 hrs**.

	No: BWSSB/EIC/CE(E)/ACE(E)-2/DCE(M)-I/TA(E)/1943/2024-25	**Date:29.07.2024**
1.	Providing and laying and linking of 600mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe and 100mm dia DI pipe line from Anepalya main road to NGV storm water drain for BBMP White Topping Work coming under Johnson Market service station of AEESE-1 Sub division	Rs. 313.10 lakhs / Rs. 4.70 lakhs
2.	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia MS and 150mm dia DI water supply pipe line at MG Road from Anil Kumble Circle to Trinity Circle junction for proposed BBMP White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AEESE-1 sub division	Rs. 255.47 lakhs / Rs. 4.2 lakhs
3.	Providing, laying and linking of 300mm dia, 200mm dia MS pipe line and 100mm dia DI pipe line from Anepalya main road to Masjid road (Bazaar street) to Hosur road for BBMP White Topping Work coming under Johnson market service station of AEESE-1 Sub division.	Rs. 219.22 lakhs / Rs. 3.29 lakhs
4.	Replacement of 400mm dia CI pipe line by MS pipe line and 100mm dia CI pipe line by 100mm dia DI pipe line at MG Road coming under Halasuru service station of AEESE-2 sub division.	Rs. 261.58 lakhs / Rs. 4.63 lakhs
5.	Providing and laying of 300mm dia RCC line in place of 225mm dia SW silted up and damaged line with construction of new machine holes at MG Road (RHS side) from Anil Kumble circle to Trinity Circle for proposed White Topping Work coming under CLR service station of AEESE-1 sub division	Rs. 134.05 lakhs / Rs. 2.37 lakhs

For the above works Last date and time for Receipt of tenders will be on **16.08.2024 upto 16.00 hrs**. The bids will be opened on : **17.08.2024 after 17.00 hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (East)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1179/Zen/2024-25

DRAMATIC FINISH

Yee gets the better of Wilde to win the delayed men's triathlon

Getty Images

Britain's Alex Yee won the men's triathlon on Wednesday, passing New Zealand's Hayden Wilde in the final stretch, in a dramatic finish to the delayed event. Yee, who won silver in Tokyo, caught his great rival on one of the last corners of the 10km run, while France's Leo Bergere came in third.

DELIGHTING HOME FANS

Beaugrand gives France its first ever Olympic medal in triathlon

AP

Cassandre Beaugrand won the women's triathlon, after the race was given the green light following pollution tests, to clinch France's first ever Olympic medal in the event. Switzerland's Julie Derron, who had led for most of the run stage, won silver and Great Britain's Beth Potter, considered a top contender for gold, took bronze.

THREE EVENTS

Sifan Hassan to run 5,000m, 10,000m and the marathon

FILE PHOTO

Sifan Hassan of Netherlands will defend her 5,000m and 10,000m titles and take on the marathon in Paris, she said on Wednesday, dropping 1,500m from her programme. Sifan, who was initially registered to compete in all four events, attempted an unprecedented Tokyo treble three years ago.

NO SPRINT DOUBLE

200m World champion Jackson to skip the 100m in Paris Games

AFP

Jamaica's twice 200 metres World champion Shericka Jackson will not contest the sprint double after dropping the 100 from her programme. "I'm only running the 200m here," said Jackson, who has won silvers in the 100m in the last two World championships and the 100m bronze at the Tokyo Games.

Sensational Lakshya shocks Christie, advances to the pre-quarterfinals

The 22-year-old Indian utilises the drift to his advantage against the favoured Indonesian; Sindhu progresses after breezing past Estonia's Kuuba

PARIS 2024

Contrasting victories: With the first game on the line, Lakshya pulled off a terrific behind-the-back return while Sindhu won at a canter. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Jonathan Selvaraj
PARIS

Jonatan Christie might have been forgiven for thinking he'd won the point.

Down 18-19 in the first game in his Group L men's singles match against Lakshya Sen, Christie would have thought he'd just pulled level.

After a furious flat exchange, he'd caught the Indian in a bad position and powered a drive to the wrong side of the right-handed Indian.

Christie had almost started celebrating as the shuttle nearly passed the 22-year-old Indian when at the last minute Lakshya whipped his racquet behind his back and returned the shot.

Christie was rushed into a shot and ended up hitting out. By conventional logic, Lakshya should not have won this point. Game point down soon became a game down. Lakshya would make the most of the opening as he wrapped the second game in double quick time to win 21-18, 21-12.

The Indonesian – who got off to a storming start, winning the first five points – walked off the court head bowed down in disbelief.

Figuring it out

"I couldn't figure out the drift in the first few minutes. The drift was coming in from behind me and Christie was just trying to pin me to the back. But once I got used to the conditions, it was a lot easier," Lakshya said.

Indeed that moment of brilliance aside, Lakshya wasn't trying to do anything spectacular, playing well within his means and waiting for his opponent to make the errors.

"The preparation and the strategy were in place and we didn't do anything extra. My coaches (Prakash Padukone and Vimal Kumar) were constantly encouraging me and that made it easier for me."

It's hard to call this win an upset – Lakshya is a former world bronze medallist after all. But he was also not the favourite to beat Christie.

The pair had played each other five times before, with the Indonesian winning the last four times from the start of the last season.

Lakshya was only getting his season back on track this year after a dismal run in the second half of the previous season.

Christie, meanwhile, was coming into Paris in red-hot form as the reigning Asian and All England champion.

If there was ever a time to overcome a streak, it was on Wednesday at the Arena Porte de La Chapelle. The two had been unexpectedly paired together in the league phase. With only the winner of the group going through to the round-of-16, the match was a must-win encounter for both players.

Now that he has made his place in the last-16, Lakshya has all the momentum he could hope for. "I think it was a tough group. I had to be at my best from day one. (Beating a player like Christie) gives you a lot of confidence.

"I haven't done well against him in our last few matches. They've been close and I've played well, but I've not closed them out. I'm happy with the way the momentum is going and I would love to continue this," he said.

Earlier, P.V. Sindhu dispatched Kristin Kuuba of Estonia 21-5, 21-10 in 34 minutes to confirm her place in the last-16.

"Criticism is always there. It's all about how you take it. Even though so many people are saying things, I know what I am. I know how it is to play on court," Sindhu said.

Meanwhile, the Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will face Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh in the quarterfinals.

Sindhu wishes Manu the best for a third

Jonathan Selvaraj

A day after Manu Bhaker told *The Hindu* how she had made a fake social media profile in order to discretely defend two time Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu from online abuse, the Indian badminton player admitted that it was inevitable to have to deal with criticism of her performance on social media.

"Criticism is always there. (What matters) is just how you take it," she told reporters on Wednesday.

"And for me personally, even though there are so many people (who might criticise me), I know what I am and I know how it is to compete, how hard it is when we play on court, how hard it is when we lose and how bad we feel when that happens," Sindhu said.

"We do have bad days and I don't deny that but it's important to bounce back stronger and just keep fighting hard and keep working hard.

"There are times you keep losing in your first round and however much ever you try, you might not be able to move forward but that is the time you have to stay positive and you need to have positive people around you and just keep backing yourself up," she said.

"I have always appreciated Neeraj and Sindhu for their hard work. There was this one time when I made a fake profile to defend Sindhu. Some haters commented, and I got so triggered that I made a fake account to defend her," Manu had told *The Hindu* following her second bronze medal. "What a sweetheart! Welcome to the two-medal club," Sindhu then posted on 'X' in response to Manu.

Sindhu also wished Manu the best as both of them chased the very same goal of three Olympic medals.

"I couldn't talk to Manu yesterday because I also had a match today but I obviously congratulated her. She's done a great job and I wish her all the very best in her upcoming event. She's put on an amazing show," Sindhu said.

INDIANS IN ACTION

A look at some Indian players/team who will compete on Thursday (all times IST):

Athletics: 20km race walk: Men's final (Akshdeep, Paramjeet, Vikash), 11 a.m.; Women's final (Priyanka), 12.50 p.m.

Archery: Men's Individual (1/32 elimination): Pravin vs Kao (Chn), 2.30 p.m.

Boxing: Women's 50kg (round-of-16): Nikhat vs Wu (Chn), 2.30 p.m.

Golf: Men's Individual Stroke Play: Round 1 (Gaganjeet, Shubhankar), 12.30 p.m.

Hockey: Men (Pool B): vs Belgium (1.30 p.m.).

Sailing: Men's Dinghy (Vishnu Saravanan), 3.45 p.m.; Women's Dinghy (Nethra), 7.05 p.m.

Shooting: 50m Rifle 3 Positions: Men's final (Swapnil), 1 p.m.; Women's qualification (Sift, Anjum), 3.30 p.m.

Deepika progresses; Tarundeep exits

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

The seasoned Deepika Kumari got past two opponents to reach the women's individual pre-quarterfinals in the archery competitions at the Invalides arena here on Wednesday.

Deepika, ranked 23rd in the ranking rounds, overcame her inconsistency to beat Estonia's Reena Parnat 6-5 (29-28, 26-27, 27-27, 24-27, 30-27, shoot-off: 9-8) in a round of 32 contest.

Getting past Quinty

Later, she defeated Netherlands' Quinty Roeffen 6-2 (29-28, 27-29, 25-17, 28-23) in the round of 16.

Bhajan Kaur has already secured a place in the pre-quarterfinals.

Tarundeep Rai's journey ended in the men's individual round of 32 as he lost to Great Britain's Tom Hall 6-4 (27-27, 28-27, 25-28, 29-28, 29-29).

Lovlina blanks Hofstad, gears up for Li test in style

Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

No looking back: With clarity of thought and a confident demeanour, Lovlina launched regular attacks. RITU RAJ KONWAR

World champion Lovlina Borgohain executed her plan well to record a comprehensive 5-0 win over 2022 World junior champion Sunniva Hofstad of Norway in a round-of-16 boxing match of the Olympics at the North Paris Arena here on Wednesday.

A big test awaits Lovlina, a 69kg bronze medallist in the Tokyo Olympics, as she takes on old rival and top-seeded Chinese star Li Qian, a double Olympic medallist, a triple World championships medallist and the current Asian Games champion, in a crucial quarterfinal contest on Sunday.

Presenting an improved version of her game, the eighth-seeded Lovlina, who had a lower back issue during the pre-Olympics camp in Saarbrucken, showed no signs of discomfort as she jogged, smiling, to the blue corner and looked eager to get on with her first fight.

With clarity of thought and a confident demeanour, the Indian launched attacks to take an early advantage.

Her left-right combinations put pressure on the Norwegian, who tried to land some counters to tackle the lanky Indian.

After claiming the first round with clean shots, Lovlina maintained her long range and made effective use of her precise left jab, which has gained power over time, to keep Hofstad at a safe distance.

For Lovlina, the second round was more about balancing her attack and defence. Her movement and evading tactics helped her stay out of the Norwegian's grasp and consolidate her lead.

Even as Hofstad tried to bridge the gap between the two, Lovlina continued to hit and move in the final round before getting a step closer to securing her second medal.

Manika's remarkable run ends; Sreeja shines brighter than Sun

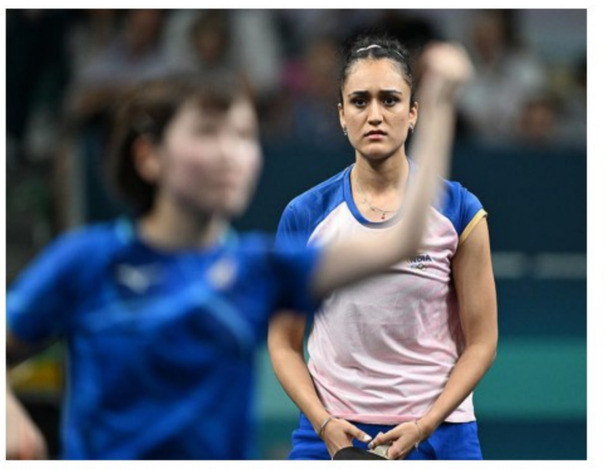
Y.B. Sarangi
PARIS

Manika Batra's historic run ended in the pre-quarterfinals as she lost to 13th-ranked Japanese Hirano Miu – an Olympic team silver and World championships medallist – 1-4 (6-11, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11, 6-11) in the women's singles table tennis competition of the Olympics at the South Paris Arena here on Wednesday.

Earlier, Sreeja Akula got the better of Singapore's Jian Zeng 4-2 (9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10) in 51 minutes to set up a round-of-16 clash with China's Sun Yingsha.

Manika did not have a good start as she hit the net often to see Hirano, who serves with a noticeable thumping right leg, secure the first game in six minutes.

Manika began well in the second game, taking an early 5-1 lead. However, the gritty Japanese fought back to level the scores at 6-6 and went on to pocket the game as the Indian struggled to keep the ball on the table on several occasions.



It was not to be: Manika is distraught after going down to Hirano in the round-of-16. RITU RAJ KONWAR

In a thrilling third game that lasted 12 minutes, Manika took a five-point lead before Hirano benefitted from the Indian's mistakes to secure game points twice.

But the Indian did not give up and won the game and narrowed the gap.

After a tight contest, Hirano closed the fourth game in her favour by taking the last two points – first through a spectacular forehand and then because of Manika finding the net.

An under-pressure Manika played well in patches, engaging in a long rally in the fourth game, but finally bowed out in 47 minutes.

THE INDIA SHOW

A look at some of the Indian performances on Wednesday:

Archery: Individual: Women: 1/16 elimination: Deepika bt Roeffen (Ned) 6-2; 1/32: Deepika bt Parnat (Est) 6-5; Men: 1/32 elimination: Tarundeep lost to Hall (GBr) 4-6.

Badminton: Group stage: Women: Sindhu bt Kuuba (Est) 21-5, 21-10; Men: Lakshya bt Christie (Ina) 21-18, 21-12; Prannoy bt Le (Vie) 16-21, 21-11, 21-12.

Boxing: Women (round-of-16): 75kg: Lovlina bt Hofstad (Nor) 5-0; 54kg: Preeti lost to Castaneda (Col) 2-3.

Equestrian: Dressage Grand Prix: Individual qualifier: Anush (ninth in group E, DNQ for final).

Rowing: Men's Single Sculls (semifinal C/D 1): 6. Balraj (will compete for positions 19 to 24).

Shooting: 50m Rifle 3 Positions: Men's qualification: 7. Swapnil (qualifies for final), 11. Aishwary Pratap, DNQ; Trap: Women's qualification: 22. Rajeshwari and 23. Shreyasi, DNQ for final.

Table tennis: Women: Round-of-16: Manika lost to Hirano (Jpn) 6-11, 9-11, 14-12, 8-11, 6-11; Round-of-32: Sreeja bt Zeng (Sgp) 9-11, 12-10, 11-4, 11-5, 10-12, 12-10.

INBRIEF

Wiffen makes Irish history with 800m freestyle gold

Daniel Wiffen become the first Irishman to win an Olympic swimming gold medal on Tuesday when he powered home first in the men's 800m freestyle. The 23-year-old hit the wall in 7min 38.19sec, the fifth fastest of all time, ahead of American defending champion Bobby Finke (7:38.75) and Italian Gregorio Paltrinieri (7:39.38).

McKeown pips Smith to retain 100m backstroke crown

Australia's Kaylee McKeown retained her Olympic crown in the women's 100m backstroke, producing a blistering second lap to beat world record holder Regan Smith of the USA. McKeown won with a time of 57.33sec while Smith was 57.66. USA's Katharine Berkoff (57.98) took bronze

Great Britain defends men's 4x200m freestyle title

A British team anchored by Duncan Scott stormed to victory in the men's Olympic 4x200m freestyle relay Tuesday to successfully defend its title. Led off by James Guy and brought home by Scott, with Tom Dean and Matt Richards in the middle legs, it touched in 6mins 59.43secs ahead of the United States and Australia.

Sjostrom sprints to women's 100m freestyle gold

Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom won the women's 100 metres freestyle gold medal on Wednesday. The evergreen Sjostrom, who holds the World record, touched the wall in 52.16 seconds at La Defense Arena, 0.13 seconds ahead of American silver medallist Torri Huske. Siobhan Haughey took bronze for Hong Kong.

Marchand claims men's 200m butterfly for a second gold

France's Leon Marchand won his second gold medal at the Paris Games with a brilliant final lap to clinch the men's 200m butterfly. World record holder and defending champion Kristof Milak of Hungary had led until midway through the final stages when Marchand, who already has gold from the 400m medley, made his dramatic late surge, roared on by the home crowd.

GOING FOR GOLD

Artistic Gymnastics: Women's All-Around
Athletics: Men's and Women's 20km Walk
Canoe Slalom: Men's Kayak Single
Fencing: Women's Foil Team
Judo: Men's -100kg, Women's -78kg
Rowing: Women's & Men's Double Sculls, Women's and Men's Four
Sailing: Women's and Men's Skiff Medal race
Shooting: Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions
Swimming: Women's 200m Butterfly, Men's 200m Backstroke, Women's 200m Breaststroke, Women's 4x200m Freestyle Relay

Djokovic and Alcaraz stay on course

The Serb breezes into the quarterfinals to set up a clash with Tsitsipas; Spaniard also makes the last eight; Swiatek enters the semifinals

Red hot! Djokovic made the last eight for a record fourth time. GETTY IMAGES

PARIS 2024

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz overcame crushing humidity on Wednesday to stay on course for an Olympic final showdown as Iga Swiatek shrugged off a blow to the chest to reach the semifinals.

Djokovic, seeking a first Olympic title to add to his record-breaking collection, defeated German left-hander Dominik Koepfer 7-5, 6-3, becoming the first man to reach four singles quarterfinals at the Games.

The 37-year-old Djokovic has only ever collected a bronze at the Olympics, at Beijing 16 years ago, but he was rarely troubled by his 70th-ranked opponent.

"I'm soaking wet, honestly," said Djokovic, who has won three of his 24 Grand Slam crowns on Paris's famous red clay.

"It's a very, very humid day as it was yesterday. But you have to accept and embrace the conditions and try to make the best out of it."

Djokovic, who had breezed past old rival Rafael Nadal in the second round, goes on to face 11th-ranked Stefanos Tsitsipas, who got past Argentina's Sebastian Baez 7-5, 6-1.

Alcaraz brushed aside Roman Safiullin, the Russian playing in Paris as a neutral, 6-4, 6-2.

Up next for Alcaraz is Tommy Paul, the American he defeated in the Wimbledon quarterfinals.

Medvedev ousted

Russia's Daniil Medvedev, also appearing as a neutral and seeded to face Alcaraz in the semifinals, was defeated 6-3, 7-6(5) by Felix Auger-Aliassime.

In women's singles, World No.1 Swiatek progressed when Danielle Collins retired injured in the final set.

She will face China's Zheng Qinwen, who ended the career of former World No. 1 and three-time Major winner Angelique Kerber.

Four-time French Open winner Swiatek racked up her 25th successive win on the clay courts of Paris but only after being pole-axed by a fierce backhand from Collins in the first game of the deciding set.

Swiatek next faces Australian Open runner-up Zheng, who became the first Chinese woman since Li Na in 2008 to reach the semifinals with a 6-7(4), 6-4, 7-6(6) win over Kerber.

Slovakia's Anna Karolina Schmiedlova became the first Slovakian player to make the semifinals since Miloslav Mecir won the men's title at Seoul in 1988.

The 67th-ranked Schmiedlova stunned Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejcikova 6-4, 6-2

Nadal-Alcaraz duo exits

Meanwhile in doubles, Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz were dumped out by Austin Krajicek and Rajeev Ram. The Spanish dream team lost 6-2, 6-4 to the US fourth seeds, who progressed to the semifinals.

Medals table

	Country	G	S	B	T
1	China	8	7	3	18
2	Japan	8	3	4	15
3	France	7	9	8	24
4	Australia	7	4	3	14
5	Great Britain	6	6	5	17
6	Korea	5	3	3	11
7	USA	4	13	12	29
8	Italy	3	6	4	13
9	Canada	2	2	3	7
10	Germany	2	2	1	5
39	India	0	0	2	2

GOLDIES

Kaylee McKeown (Aus): *Women's 100m Backstroke*
Daniel Wiffen (Irl): *Men's 800m Freestyle*
Great Britain (James Guy, Duncan Scott, Tom Dean, Matt Richards): *Men's 4x200m Freestyle*
Sarah Sjoestroem (Swe): *Women's 100m Freestyle*
Leon Marchand (Fra): *Men's 200m Butterfly*
Alex Yee (GBr): *Men's Triathlon*
Cassandre Beaugrand (Fra): *Women's Triathlon*
Deng Yawen (Chn): *BMX Freestyle Women's Park*
Jose Torres Gil (Arg): *BMX Freestyle Men's Park*
China (Quan Hongchan & Chen Yuxi): *Women's Synchronised 10m Platform*
Adriana Ruano Oliva (Gua): *Women's Trap*
Netherlands: *Men's Quad. Sculls*
Great Britain: *Women's Quad. Sculls*
Barbara Matic (Cro): *Judo Women's 70kg*
Lasha Bekauri (Geo): *Judo men's under 100kg*
Jessica Fox (Aus): *Women's canoe single*
Shinnosuke Oka (Jpn): *Gymnastics Men's All-Around*

Gaekwad, 71, passes away

1952-2024

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Former India cricketer Aunshuman Gaekwad passed away on Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. He was 71.

Gaekwad played 40 Tests and 15 ODIs for India.

He was also the coach of the Indian team that finished runner-up at the 2000 ICC Champions Trophy. Gaekwad was undergoing treatment for blood cancer at the King's College Hospital in London before returning back to the country last month.

The BCCI gave ₹ 1 crore for Gaekwad's treatment and members of the 1983 World Cup-winning team also did their bit to help the cricketer.

Gaekwad has also played 205 First Class matches in a career spanning 22 years.

He later took over as coach of the Indian team. His glorious moments came at Sharjah in 1998 and in a Test match at Ferozeshah Kotla when Anil Kumble took all 10 wickets in an innings against Pakistan in 1999.

Aunshuman Gaekwad's career in numbers

	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Tests	40	70	1,985	201	30.07	2/10
ODIs	15	14	269	78*	20.69	0/1

A picture of steely calm

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
CHENNAI

Countering the fiercest pace bowlers in their prime, Aunshuman Gaekwad was always a picture of steely calm. Later as a coach, the former India opener was all grace, empathy and laughter with the last-mentioned attribute in full evidence when Anil Kumble got his 'perfect 10' against Pakistan at Delhi in 1999.

However, in his battle against cancer, Gaekwad, Baroda's mainstay and one of Sunil Gavaskar's steady opening colleagues, had to play second-fiddle. Gaekwad, aged 71, passed away on Wednesday, leaving behind a grief-stricken cricketing fraternity. A recent stint in London hospitals while his former teammates Gavaskar and Kapil Dev rallied around him is both a tribute to the way he was loved and the enduring friendships he forged.

Another maestro must be grieving now as the great G.R. Viswanath was one of Gaekwad's closest buddies. In his prime, the bespectacled Gaekwad was an immovable object against the fastest of bowlers, including Michael Holding.

His 1985 Test runs from 40 matches may not fully reveal the quality he possessed but there was no limit to his stone-walling technique that was evident in the 201 he scored against Pakistan at Jalandhar in 1983.

His 81 against the West Indies at Kingston's Sabina Park during the 1976 tour, is the stuff of legend, and it is an innings that Holding, Gaekwad's then tormentor, always remembers. Forced to retire hurt following a gruesome injury, the opener was resigned to seeing India lose to the Caribbean men in a Test marred by blood spilled on the turf. This was a new-age 'bodyline' and more vicious in its intent.

Having played for India for more than a decade, Gaekwad continued as a First Class cricketer till the 1991-92 season before seamlessly moving into coaching, selection and administration. Soft-spoken and with an easy smile, he was always accessible to the media while his close pals called him Anshu and relished their evenings of nostalgia and banter with him.

Recently Kapil released a video, imploring Gaekwad to fight back like he always had done. By the time the appeal concluded, one of India's greatest cricketers was in tears, such was Gaekwad's deep emotional impact on all those he interacted with in a storied career. India has lost a fine cricketer, and for all those he played with and coached, this loss is personal.

Resolute: Gaekwad, in his prime, was an immovable object against the fastest of bowlers. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Franchise owners divided over the mega auction

IPL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

The annual meeting between the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) officials and the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchisee on Wednesday was expected to exchange views on player retentions, use of right to match cards, auction purse and the impact player rule.

However, the meeting took an interesting turn when at least two franchisees sought doing away with the mega auction, or at least postponing it by a year. *The Hindu* understands that three team owners were at the forefront of having a smaller auction – meaning optimum player retentions – rather than forcing a major makeover in all the squads.

"We do not want the mega auction this year – we would prefer a mini-auction this year. It takes a lot of time to build a squad and takes quite a bit of time and investment for the younger players to mature," Kavya Maran of Sunrisers Hyderabad said after the meeting. "For example, it has taken Abhishek Sharma three years to become consistent with his performances. You would agree that there are many such examples in other teams too."

The suggestion came as a surprise to most in the enclosure and led to a prolonged debate between two team owners. "I was surprised (with the debate). Some didn't want big auctions, stating there should be only smaller auctions," Parth Jindal, the Delhi Capitals co-owner, said.

"I am not in that camp, as it (mega auction) evens out the playing field. It makes the IPL competitive. It makes the IPL what it is. It makes it competitive."

Referring to the meeting as a "constructive dialogue", BCCI secretary Jay Shah said the owners' feedback will be considered while finalising player regulations.

"The franchise owners tabled feedback on player regulations and other commercial aspects, including central merchandising, licensing, and gaming. The BCCI will now take these recommendations to the IPL Governing Council for further deliberation and evaluation before formulating the IPL player regulations," Shah said in a statement.

Jindal hoped that the BCCI will finalise the player regulations by August end. As per the IPL regulations, despite seeking the franchisee feedback, the IPL governing council does not involve the team owners in its final decision-making.

It is understood that the house was divided over the number of retentions. From no retentions to 10, the number varied. Similarly, the enclosure was divided over the need to have right to match cards. The auction purse may be increased from the existing Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 125 crore.

The franchisees also sought clarity about overseas players' availability while building the squad for the next full cycle.

Differing views: While SRH owner Kavya preferred to not have the mega auction, DC's Jindal was for it. BCCI secretary Jay Shah termed the meeting a "constructive dialogue". EMMANUAL YOGINI

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Viksit Bharat, Sashakt Uttarakhand

"Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we are committed to the holistic development of our state, leveraging its natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and immense potential. Through sustainable policies and strategic initiatives, we aim to foster economic growth, improve infrastructure, and enhance the quality of life for all our citizens. Our goal is to make Uttarakhand a model of progress, where tradition meets innovation, and every individual can thrive in a conducive environment for prosperity and well-being.

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister

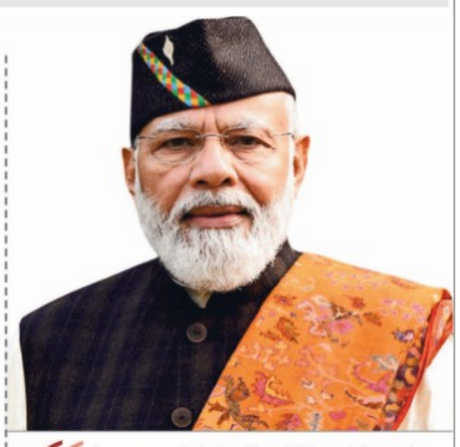
State top performer in SDG India Index 2023-24

Driven by the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the state of Uttarakhand, led by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has demonstrated tremendous achievement in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as depicted in the **SDG India Index 2023-24**

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami gifting 'Grain of Uttarakhand' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Uttarakhand has set a standard by leading in essential domains including healthcare, clean energy, reduction in poverty, urban sustainability, and environmental protection



"I congratulate the Uttarakhand government on the remarkable progress achieved in the last few years. This has been made possible by sustained policy push and focus on key sectors such as tourism and renewable energy. Alongside, the state has made significant strides in infrastructure development, setting new benchmarks for sustainable growth. Uttarakhand's commitment to harnessing its natural resources and promoting tourism has not only bolstered its economy but also showcased its potential on the global stage. I applaud the state's dedication to inclusive development and look forward to its continued success in the years ahead.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

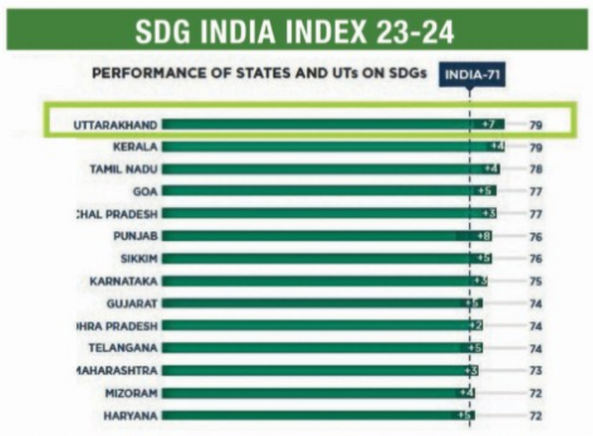
Uttarakhand has emerged as a top performer in the recently released SDG India Index 2023-24, ranking alongside Kerala with an impressive score of 79. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the state has worked on comprehensive development, promoting renewable energy, augmenting healthcare infrastructure, evolving urban surroundings, and preserving biodiversity, underlining its dedication to sustainable evolution and effective policy execution, thus attaining a spot among the top five states in several SDG goals.

ALLEVIATING POVERTY AND SAFEGUARDING FINANCIAL SECURITY

The performance of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand in alleviating poverty is admirable, illustrating the state's victorious measures in its mitigation. The SDG India Index underscores that Uttarakhand has attained important landmarks in lessening poverty levels, assuring financial security for its citizens, and implementing comprehensive social security programmes. The exhaustive strategy of the state contains targeted initiatives for the marginalised, livelihood generation agendas, and improving access to fundamental needs such as housing, education, and healthcare. These endeavours have collectively contributed to the top-tier ranking of the state in eliminating poverty.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

The state of Uttarakhand has exhibited remarkable advancement in boosting health and well-being. The healthcare system of the state has demonstrated outstanding progress in different health indicators, including mother and child health, immunisation coverage, and the management of infectious and non-communicable diseases. The focus of the government has been on bolstering healthcare infrastructure, extending the coverage of health benefits to remote places, and improving the quality of care. Ingenious health agendas and expanded investment in public health have additionally strengthened the ranking of Uttarakhand, positioning it among the highest achievers in this crucial domain.



PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY SOLUTIONS

The accomplishments of Uttarakhand in the SDG India Index emphasise its adherence to assuring access to affordable, trustworthy, sustainable, and contemporary energy for everybody. The state has taken noteworthy steps in boosting renewable energy capability, especially in harnessing its hydroelectric potential. Further, Uttarakhand has concentrated on enhancing energy efficiency and extending the electricity grid to rural and isolated regions, assuring overall access to clean energy. These measures have improved energy security as well as contributed to environmental sustainability, making the state achieve a leading position in this classification.

CREATING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES

The state has undertaken several metropolitan expansion to enhance infrastructure and improve various public services. Introduction of smart cities concept, affordable accommodation schemes, and integration of disaster threat reduction efforts into urban planning have greatly enhanced the quality of life for urban citizens.

CONSERVING TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The commitment of Uttarakhand towards maintaining the ecosystem and biodiversity is illustrated in its high ranking in the SDG India Index. The state has launched strong efforts to save and revive forests, conserve wilderness, and fight land degradation.

The rich biodiversity and vast forest cover of Uttarakhand are important assets that the state preserves via different environmental approaches and community-based conservation agendas. Measures to foster sustainable farming and forestry techniques have additionally bolstered the ecological harmony of the state, assuring the long-term health of its natural resources.

The holistic strategy of Uttarakhand for growth, incorporating financial development with social inclusion and environmental administration, illustrates the regulations of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Uttarakhand has undertaken a historic step to introduce the Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, becoming the first Indian state to introduce such a pioneering endeavour that connects ecology with the economy

U'khand aces in the introduction of gross environmental product index

The Gross Environmental Product (GEP) Index, was recently launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and it evaluates the environmental health of the state based on the quality of four essential elements, viz. air, water, forest, and soil. The GEP shows relative data from 2020 to 2022, indicating a 0.9% growth, signalling favourable environmental trends amid expansion.

CM Dhami highlighted the importance of this endeavour in facilitating a balance between financial growth and ecological conservation. The GEP Index will act as a vital instrument in forming prospective environmental conservation objectives and raising public understanding about the significance of protecting natural resources. The Chief Minister, while emphasising the rich natural legacy of Uttarakhand, highlighted the necessity for effective utilisation of forest wealth and the revitalisation of water sources via comprehensive plantation of trees and water conservation measures.

The concept of GEP was envisioned by environmentalist Dr Anil Prakash Joshi. It allocates an economic worth to environmental services, providing a tangible standard of ecological influence. Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index in balancing growth with environmental sustainability. This assures a brighter tomorrow for its residents and establishing a standard for other states to pursue.

PICS: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

Uttarakhand strives to lead by example with the introduction of the GEP Index, in balancing growth with environmental sustainability

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Under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the '**One District Two Products**' scheme launched by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state

ODTP Scheme: A step towards local economic empowerment

Uttarakhand's 'One District Two Products' (ODTP) Scheme is an innovative initiative launched by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in October 2021. The scheme aims to promote local products and create self-employment opportunities across all 13 districts of the state.

EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

One of the key aspects of the ODTP scheme is its potential to generate employment opportunities at the local level. By developing products based on market demand and utilising modern technology, the scheme creates jobs in various sectors, including packaging, testing, and logistics. The increase in business and export opportunities is expected to further bolster employment, benefiting local farmers, artisans, and craftsmen.

Notable products from various regions include Almora's tweed and Bal Mithai, Bageshwar's copper craft and Manduwa biscuits, Champawat's iron crafts and handwoven products, Chamoli's handlooms, handicrafts, and aromatic herbals, Dehradun's bakery and mushroom products, Haridwar's jaggery and honey, Nainital's Aipan art and candle craft, Pauri's herbal products and wooden furniture, Pithoragarh's woolen carpet and Munsiyari rajma, Rudraprayag's handicrafts temple shapes and prasad products, Tehri's natural fiber and Tehri Nath, Udham Singh Nagar's mentha oil and Moonj grass products, and Uttarkashi's woolen handicrafts and apple-based products.

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami inquiring about the products made by local artisans

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Skill development and design enhancement are also crucial components of the implementation strategy. By equipping local artisans and craftsmen with modern skills and design techniques, the scheme ensures that the products meet contemporary market demands.

MARKET & EXPORT POTENTIAL

The ODTP scheme aims to position Uttarakhand's local products in both domestic and international markets. By promoting these products on a larger scale, the scheme seeks to enhance their visibility and demand. The government's efforts to improve packaging, branding, and marketing are expected to play a significant role in this endeavour. Tourism also plays a crucial role in the ODTP scheme's market strategy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has encouraged tourists to spend at least 5% of their total expenditure on local products. This initiative not only boosts the local economy, but also promotes state's cultural heritage.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The ODTP scheme is a promising step towards the sustainable economic development of Uttarakhand. By focusing on local products and creating self-employment opportunities, the scheme aims to foster economic resilience in the state's rural areas. The successful implementation of this scheme could serve as a model for other states to follow, highlighting the potential of local industries to drive economic growth.

District-wide crafts get recognition

Local products find national & global platforms

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVT

PM Narendra Modi interacting with women entrepreneurs (SHG) during Uttarakhand Investor Summit 2023

The 'One District One Product' (ODOP) scheme is an endeavour under the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, striving to boost regional products and promote financial evolution in districts across India. By recognising and sustaining outstanding products from each district, the scheme seeks to facilitate manufacturing, help regional craftspeople, and furnish a forum for these products in nationwide and global markets. Recently, Uttarakhand and its border district, Uttarkashi, obtained nationwide acclaim under this scheme, marking a notable accomplishment for the state.

The state's commendation came during the Atmanirbhar Bharat Utsav 2024 awards, where Uttarkashi district won the second award for its production of Red Rice in the agriculture category.

Different districts in Uttarakhand have been recognised with special products under the ODOP scheme, including Almora's apricot-based products, Bageshwar's kiwi-based products, Chamoli's fish-based products, Champawat's *tejpatta* and spices, Dehradun's bakery products, Haridwar's mushrooms, Nainital's fruit juice and squash (peach, etc), Pauri's citrus-based products (Malta), Pithoragarh's turmeric-based products, Rudraprayag's *amaranthas*-based products, Tehri's ginger-based products, Udham Singh Nagar's mango-based products, and Uttarkashi's apple-based products.

This is supported by the Common Facility Centre (CFC) Scheme, which furnishes up to 90 percent of the project expenditure in economic aid. This allows local producers to improve their production establishments and enhance their product quality. The Marketing Development Assistance Scheme presents economic support to participants of nationwide and multinational exhibits and fairs, letting them demonstrate and market their ODOP-selected products. Further, the Finance Assistance Scheme (Margin Money Scheme) offers assistance to set up projects, assuring that financial limitations do not restrict the development of local enterprises.

States (Category B)

Rank	State	Award
1.	J&K	Gold
2.	Uttarakhand	Silver
3.	Meghalaya	Bronze
4.	Sikkim	Bronze

AYUSH POLICY: TOWARDS WELLNESS

PIC: DIPR, UTTARAKHAND GOVERNMENT

CM's visit to Adi Kailash further promoted the area as a notable pilgrimage destination

PM Narendra Modi's fondness for yoga and meditation has immensely increased the popularity of these age-old practices, especially in Uttarakhand

The AYUSH Policy of Uttarakhand summarises enterprising strategies to incorporate conventional healthcare procedures with contemporary methods, striving for holistic wellness and financial development.

The policy strives to capitalise on this legacy by enabling the cultivation of over 1,000 rare medicinal plants native to the area. Endeavours such as the Chief Minister Medicinal Plant Development Programme are set to involve 50,000 farmers in growing these plants, promoting sustainable farming approaches, and augmenting regional revenues.

In the domain of AYUSH production, Uttarakhand already has a strong drive, backed by ample raw materials and promising business necessities. The state hosts multiple GMP-certified manufacturing departments making a vast array of AYUSH medicines and consumer items. Under the new policy, more incentives and assistance will be offered to enable more units to attain WHO GMP certification and adhere to global quality norms. This action is anticipated to greatly improve the sector's contribution to the state's GDP, presently evaluated at Rs 4,000-5,000 crore.

The policy encapsulates strategies to accredit all specified government AYUSH healthcare centers under the NABH (National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers) within five years.

#ExploreUttarakhand

@DIPR_UK

INBRIEF

Brereton Diaz moves to Southampton from Villarreal

Southampton completed the signing on Tuesday of forward Ben Brereton Diaz from Villarreal on a four-year contract. The 25-year-old Chile international swapped Blackburn for Spain last summer and went on to spend the second half of last season on loan at Sheffield United, where he scored six goals in 14 top-flight appearances in England. Diaz has now made a permanent move to the Premier League by joining Southampton for a reported initial outlay of $9 million.

Everton signs up centreback O'Brien from Lyon

Everton strengthened its defence with the signing of Ireland centre back Jake O'Brien from French side Lyon on Tuesday. The 23-year-old defender moved to the Premier League club in a four-year deal worth $21 million, Lyon said. He is Everton's fifth signing of the summer, following the loan return of Leeds winger Jack Harrison and arrivals of midfielder Tim Iroegbunam and forwards Iliman Ndiaye and Jesper Lindstrom.

Veteran jockey-turned-trainer Karan Singh passes away

Veteran jockey-turned-trainer Karan Singh (80) passed away in Bengaluru on Tuesday night. As a jockey, he achieved the 1000 winners' milestone during a more than three-decades career. After his retirement, he became a trainer folr M.A.M. Ramaswamy in Bengaluru.

LIVE TELECAST

Olympics 2024: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & JioCinema, 11 a.m. onwards

Football: Durand Cup: Sony Sports Ten 2 (& LIV, 6.30 p.m.

Suryakumar's left-field bowling choices stun Lanka

For three-quarters of the third T20I or more, Sri Lanka dominated proceedings before the Indian skipper ripped the manual apart and did something that defied logic

CRICKET

Pranay Rajiv
PALLEKELE

If a rulebook on cricketing conventions ever existed, you would probably find it torn to pieces and scattered across the Pallekele Stadium in Kandy.

For on Tuesday, Indian skipper Suryakumar Yadav ripped that manual apart and tossed it aside to mastermind a come-from-behind win against Sri Lanka in the final T20I between the two sides.

For three-quarters of the third T20I or more, Sri Lanka dominated proceedings. With nine runs needed from the last two overs and an easy-striking Kusal Perera in the middle, the Lankan fans were finally singing in joy as a rare win against India seemed in sight.

Working his magic: The element of surprise from Suryakumar proves to be too much for the opposition. PTI

A gamble

But then, Suryakumar did something that defied logic at that point – a gamble which would have put Sri Lanka's casino hoppers to shame.

Despite pacers Khaleel Ahmed and Mohammed Siraj being available, Suryakumar tossed the penultimate over to Rinku Singh and bowled the final one himself, even though the two had never bowled in a T20I before.

The element of surprise from the Indian skipper proved to be too much for a Sri Lankan middle order bereft of runs and confidence. The Lankan batters managed just eight runs in the last two overs, losing four wickets. India took the game to a Super Over and coasted to an easy win, with Suryakumar nailing the winning strike.

Fizz

The Indian captain's left-field bowling choices were an output of a crumbling Pallekele surface that offered a new-found fizz for the spinners. With all his lead spinners exhausting their quotas, his options were narrowed down to his part-timers.

Eventually, Suryakumar's deductive thinking worked out pretty well for India. Suryakumar though undermined his death-over punt and emphasised the temperament shown by his ward in the low-scoring match.

"More than the last over, I feel when we were around 30 for 4 and 48 for 5, how the boys showed character in the middle and took the game away from them. I felt 140 was a par score on that track.

"When we were going in I told them I had seen such games and if we put our heart in, we can pull it off," said Suryakumar at the post-match presentation ceremony.

Bunny in the hat moment: Suryakumar's ploy to bring in Rinku at a crucial juncture is testimony of his captaincy skills. AP

Washington effusive in praise of Suryakumar's leadership

Pranay Rajiv
PALLEKELE

All-rounder Washington Sundar was all praise for the way skipper Suryakumar Yadav led India from the jaws of defeat to a memorable Super Over win against Sri Lanka in the third and final T20I here on Tuesday.

"Honestly, his leadership skills were amazing. With nine needed off 12 to win, for him to bring Rinku in, with Kusal Perera batting and then for Rinku to get him out. It is amazing," said Washington during the post-match press conference. "Then Surya himself came in the last over and almost won the game. We all know he has a big heart when he goes out to bat. But he also has [proven that] he has a big heart when it comes to leadership skills."

Washington, who was the man of the match on Tuesday for his 18-ball 25 with the bat and 2/23 with the ball, admitted that his team never lost hope even when Sri Lanka looked in absolute control during the 138-run chase.

"Surya kept telling us one or two wickets would change the game. In these kinds of low-scoring games, even a run-a-ball situation puts pressure on the batsman, especially when there is something on the pitch for the bowler.

"So, Surya kept telling that and that is exactly what happened. I hope the audience enjoyed the game because we won't see such games every now and then," added Washington.

Sri Lankan captain Charith Asalanka was quick to admit the failure of the team's middle order, including himself, which denied his side a consolation win in the third T20I.

"What went wrong for us was bad shot selection, particularly in the middle order, including me. We didn't do particularly well after the 15th over. We should have done way better in that phase," said Asalanka after the game.

Bengaluru makes emphatic start, Indian Army stuns Chennaiyin

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Argentine striker Jorge Pereyra Diaz found the target twice to help Bengaluru FC prevail over a 10-man Indian Navy 4-0 in a Group B league match of the 133rd Durand Cup football at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Wednesday.

Rahul Bheke opened the scoring process before captain Sunil Chhetri doubled the lead off a penalty to have Bengaluru leading 2-0 at half time.

Diaz came in as a late substitute to score two quick goals.

Liton Shil struck late in the opening half to help Indian Army surprise former ISL champion Chennaiyin FC by a solitary goal in a Group D encounter at the JRD Tata Sports Complex, Jamshedpur.

The win saw Indian Army join host Jamshedpur FC on top of the group standings with three points.

Job done: Bengaluru FC players after their winning effort against Indian Navy. DEBASISH BHADURI

The results: Group B: Bengaluru FC 4 (Bheke 10, Chhetri 41-pen, Diaz 79, 90) bt Indian Navy FT 0.
Group D: Indian Army FT 1 (Liton Shil 42) bt Chennaiyin FC 0.

Afsal runs to a new 800m mark; Jabir wins 400mh

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Asian Games silver medallist Mohammed Afsal (Air Force) broke the 800m meet record, clocking 1:47.06s, in the 73rd Services athletics championships at the SAI-LNCPE Stadium on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Indian Navy's former Asian bronze medallist M.P. Jabir won the 400m hurdles in 49.99s.

Army Red and Navy were on top of the points table with 55 points each with Air Force (32) in the third spot at the end of day three.

The results: 800m: 1. Mohammed Afsal (AF) 1:47.06s (MR, OR: 1:48.02), 2. Prakash Gadade (AR) 1:47.93 BR, 3. Parvej Khan (IN) 1:48.19.
400m hurdles: 1. M.P. Jabir (IN) 49.99s, 2. Dhaval Utekar (AF) 50.34, 3. Nikhil Bhardwaj (IN) 50.63.
Pole vault: 1. R. Yugendran (IN) 5.00m, 2. Rambeer Singh (AG) 5.00, 3. Gaurav (AG) 4.80.
Discus: 1. Gagandeep Singh (IN) 55.57m, 2. P. Malik (AF) 55.08, 3. Praveen Kumar (AR) 51.43.
Decathlon: 1. S. Stalin Joes (AR) 6859 pts, 2. K.R. Gokul (IN) 6777, 3. Kamal Singh (AG) 6750.

Niki Poonacha enters the quarterfinals in doubles

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Niki Poonacha and Hans Verdugo defeated Govind Nanda and Cooper Williams 6-3, 6-4 in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the $82,000 Challenger tennis in Lexington, USA.

At the $25,000 ITF men's event in Taipei, S. Mukund advanced to the second round after his opponent Chung Yun Seong of Korea retired in the second set.

The results: $82,000 Challenger, Lexington: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Hans Verdugo (Mex) & Niki Poonacha bt Govind Nanda & Cooper Williams (USA) 6-3, 6-4.
$25,000 ITF men, Taipei: First round: S. Mukund bt Chung Yun Seong (Kor) 6-1, 2-1 (retired).
Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Sai Karteek Reddy & Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul (Tha) bt Takuya Kumasaka & Taiyo Yamanaka (Jpn) 6-1, 6-3.
$25,000 ITF men, Brazzaville, Congo: First round: Dev Javia bt Anurag Agarwal 6-1, 6-0; Aayush Bhat ((USA) bt Rishi Reddy 4-6, 7-5, 7-6(8); Eric Vanshelboim (Ukr) bt Aditya Balsekar 6-2, 6-0; Yuvan Nandal bt Harry Thursfield (GBR) 7-5, 7-5.
$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: First round: Theo Herrmann (Fra) bt Chirag Duhan 6-4, 6-4.
$75,000 ITF women, Lexington: First round: Iryna Shymanovich bt Sahaja Yamalapalli 7-5, 6-4; **Doubles, pre-quarterfinals:** Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Mananchaya Sawangaew (Tha) bt Destanee Aiava (Aus) & Dalayna Hewitt (USA) 6-3, 6-4.
$25,000 ITF women, Roehampton, Britain: First round: Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Ankita Raina 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.
$25,000 ITF women, Mohammedia, Morocco: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Vaishnavi Adkar & Rinko Matsuda (Jpn) bt Chelsea Fontenel (Sui) & Sandra Samir 5-2 (retired).
$15,000 ITF women, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Kazakhstan: First round: Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Anastasiya Krymkova (Kaz) 6-0, 6-2.
$15,000 ITF women, Tbilisi, Georgia: Pre-quarterfinals: Haine Ogata (Jpn) bt Saumya Vig 6-1, 6-3; **Doubles, pre-quarters:** Selina Atay (Tur) & Haine Ogata (Jpn) bt Shria Atturu (USA) & Smriti Bhasin 6-3, 6-3.

That's it for me as a coach: Klopp

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Jurgen Klopp has ruled out a return to coaching in the near future, including for the vacant England job. "As of today, that's it for me as a coach," Klopp said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a German Football Coaches Association meeting in Wuerzburg, the former Liverpool and Borussia Dortmund gaffer said: "I didn't decide to stop on a whim, it was a general decision."

Klopp stood down as Liverpool boss at the end of the 2023-24 season citing exhaustion after 23 years in club management.

Klopp. GETTY IMAGES

The 57-year-old was almost immediately linked to several vacant jobs, including as England coach.

"I'm looking for peace and quiet, I'm 100 per cent in the here and now and I'm enjoying it. It was just time to step aside and put the whole thing to rest," said Klopp, adding making a special exception for a club or country "would be a great loss of face."

The coach said he was enjoying retirement but would work again in football at some point, even if his days in the dugout were over. "Will I be a coach again? I would actually rule that out at the moment. Let's see how it looks in a few months. At the moment, there's nothing in the pipeline."

Subroto Cup football in Delhi, Bengaluru from August 5

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 63rd Subroto Cup football tournament will start with the junior girls' event in the National Capital Region (NCR) from August 5 to 14.

Four grounds, including the iconic Ambedkar Stadium, will be used for the tournament.

It will be followed by the sub-juniors boys competition in Bengaluru from August 19 to 28.

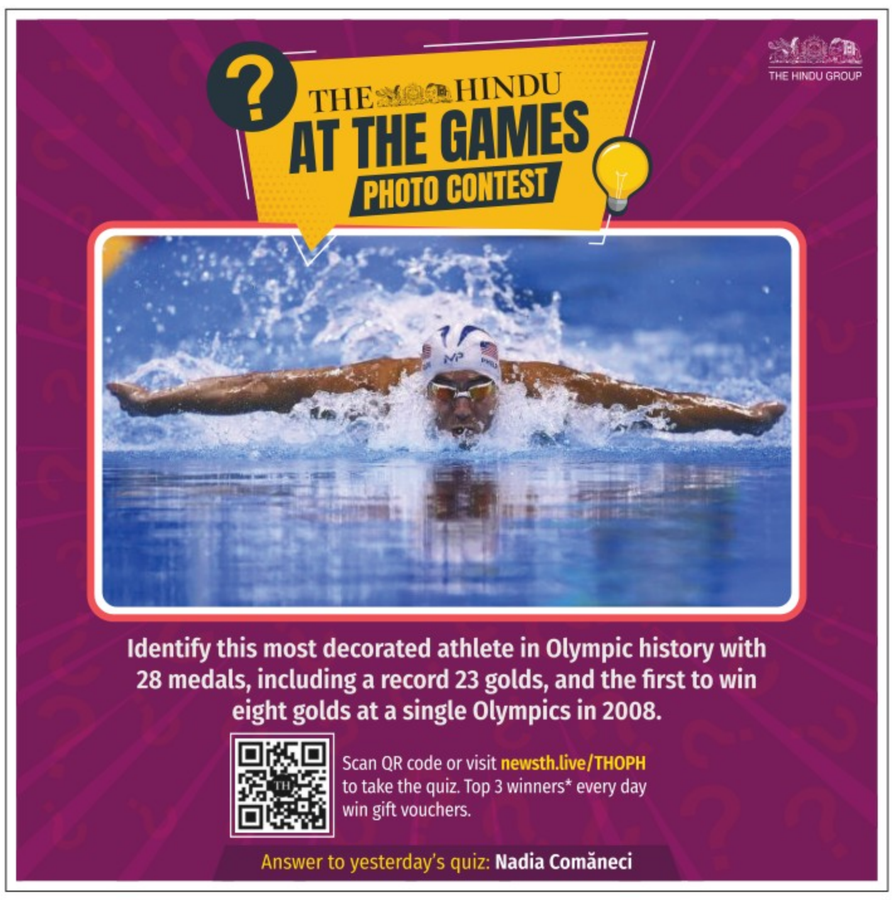
The junior boys event is scheduled to be played in Delhi NCR from September 2 to 11.

A record 111 teams are expected to participate from across the country, apart from outfits from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

Exposure

The best players from the junior boys and girls' sections will be given exposure at the Indian Football Centre in Austria/ Germany.

"The Indian Air Force (IAF) is committed to make the tournament bigger and better every year and provide a platform for the young players to take the next step in their budding career," Air Marshal R.K. Anand said while addressing the media on Wednesday.


THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
AT THE GAMES
PHOTO CONTEST
Identify this most decorated athlete in Olympic history with 28 medals, including a record 23 golds, and the first to win eight golds at a single Olympics in 2008.
Scan QR code or visit newsth.live/THOPH to take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.
Answer to yesterday's quiz: Nadia Comăneci